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A

FAMILY PRAYER BOOK,

AND

PRIVATE MANUAL:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

FORMS FOR RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES AND SCHOOLS.

WITH A COLLECTION OF HYMNS.

BY CHARLES BROOKS.

NEW EDITION.

BOSTON:
JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY,
No. 134 WASHINGTON STREET.
1853.

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PREFACE

'Prayer is the soul's sincere desire
Uttered or unexpressed.—'

In addition to God's command and our Saviour's example, prayer is recommended by its reasonableness and utility.

A christian family should be a christian church. Instruction should make it a school of virtue; and piety a temple of the living God. In such a family, prayer is the very breath of the soul. They will celebrate God's perfections with reverence and joy, acknowledge his mercies with gratitude and love, confess their sins with humility and penitence, offer their supplications with piety and fervor, and intercede for their brethren with sympathy and affection. To meet the wishes and supply the wants of such a family has been my desire in composing these forms for social worship. I have aimed to make them brief, clear and comprehensive; giving to them all the diversity which was possible in the restricted forms of family devotion.

In the prayers for individuals I have wished to keep before the mind the doctrine of a Providence, the grace of the gospel, and the practical principles of religion as they stand connected with the common varieties of human character and condition; with man's wants and blessings, dangers and hopes. I have endeavored to furnish words in which the deepest feelings of the pure and the contrite spirit may find a grateful utterance. Every thing here depends on cultivating a taste for devotion, without which prayer becomes a lifeless, ineffectual form.

In preparing this I have proceeded upon the principles adopted in the several previous editions. Of new matter one hundred pages have been added; and the rest has been so remodelled that the book may be considered a new one. It should be judged of as a whole. To write a few prayers of striking excellence is comparatively easy. The peculiar difficulty of this species of composition is felt when three hundred pages are to be furnished, and all of them

are required to be different in expression, just in sentiment, fervent in manner and evangelical in spirit. The readers of other prayer books will find expressions in this which have become common property by their unusual appropriateness. I did not think it worth while, for the sake of being wholly original, to exclude these most impressive forms.

The Scriptures teach us to pray with the understanding as well as with the spirit. I have endeavored therefore occasionally to suggest trains of religious thought, hoping thereby to touch the springs of devotion; yet, have carefully avoided those warlike disputes about doctrine, which so often rend in twain the seamless robe of Christ. It has been my first and ruling desire to write such prayers as the Saviour would approve. I have been anxious to take his own as my model, wishing to breathe into these forms the life-giving spirit of his gospel; so that the humble and pious worshipper may sanctify the Lord God in his heart, excite his devotional feelings, and, at the same time, cherish those christian truths and holy hopes which are of the highest value to man.

I would now dedicate this manual to those for whom it was written; the old, the middle-aged and the young; the rich and the poor; the learned and the ignorant; the widow and the fatherless; the happy and the disconsolate; hoping that it may be, under Providence, the means of fixing the wandering thoughts of mortal man upon immortal objects, of cherishing in the pious mind the love of christian virtue, and of drawing from God's holy heavens the gift of strength, charity and submission.

C. B

Hingham, April 16, 1833.

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FAMILY PRAYER BOOK.

FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Eternal and infinite Jehovah; Framer of our dies and Father of our spirits, we would adore ee as our Father and our God, and the God and ather of our Lord Jesus Christ, as that most gh and holy Being, whom angels praise, whom minions adore, before whom all powers fall wn and tremble, and whose excellent glory erubim and seraphim proclaim forever. On is morning of the day sacred to our souls and voted to thy worship, we would come before thee the name of that Saviour whose glorious rising is day commemorates. By thy good provi- nce we are once more permitted to assemble in e tranquillity and happiness of the family circle. hou hast watched over us during the past night, d hast made us the monuments of thy preserv- g goodness. And now, Holy Father, may we me to thee in the spirit of faith and devotion. O ve us from the guilt of hollow professions and

heartless prayers; and when we receive good impressions, let them not be as transient as the early dew.

We praise thee, God of grace, for those religious blessings which we are now especially called upon to remember, and for the holy recollections which this day brings to our minds. Glory be to thee, Father of mercies, for that Saviour who triumphed over the grave and made death his captive. We bless thee, that thou, who in times past didst speak unto the fathers by the prophets, hast in these last days spoken unto us by thy Son Jesus Christ; that thou hast sent him to go before us in the way of duty and of suffering, to be our guide and deliverer, to save us from our sins, and to show us the way to thy favor which is life, and thy loving kindness which is better than life. How should we adore thy goodness, O God, that when spiritual darkness so far covered the earth and mankind were ignorant of thee, thou didst stretch forth the arm of thy mercy, mighty to save and powerful to bless, and that the Messenger of thy truth and love appeared, the friend of sinners and guide to immortality. We bless thee, that though earth be a land of darkness, and over it be spread the shadows of death, yet there is an inheritance of glory reserved for thy children in a better world; that though we are born to die, yet Christ hath taught us that we die but to live forever, and through the grave has opened to us a

pathway to the mansions of bliss and glory. While we thus express our gratitude for the rich and durable blessings of the gospel, we would earnestly pray, that our hearts may be subdued to its dominion and sanctified by its influence; that we may live in the purity of christian faith and die in the joy of christian hope.

—* O thou with whom is the preparation of heart, prepare us, we beseech thee, for thy service this day. Send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead us, let them bring us to thy holy place. In thine earthly temple may we this day meet around thine altar, and there put away our earth-born passions, our distracting cares, our vain and corrupting thoughts, and offer to thee that homage of the soul in which thou delightest. May we enter thy gates with thanksgiving and thy courts with praise; and there having poured out our hearts before thee in the spirit of Christ, may we find some good instruction, some purifying, sanctifying influences from thy holy word. O may this be a Sabbath in which we shall gain a purer faith, a firmer trust and a warmer love. May it be a Sabbath in which we have laid aside our follies and sins, and in which we have resolved to press forward with new vigor towards the mark for the prize of our high calling, which

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* Those paragraphs, having this mark — before them, may be omitted by the reader when he thinks the prayer too long.

Where the asterisk (*) occurs, in the family prayers, the occasional prayers and thanksgivings may be properly introduced.

is in Christ Jesus. Our heart's desire and prayer is, that we may imitate the example of our blessed Saviour, and transplant into our souls something of his meekness and humility, his piety and resignation, his enlarged benevolence and his holy zeal. Knowing that a day is at hand in which thou wilt render unto every one according to his works, may we be as those who live for eternity. *

We seek a blessing for thy servant who ministers in sacred things to the society of which we are members. Do thou prosper his efforts in the cause of Christ, and make him the instrument of turning many to righteousness. Let thy favor rest on all the ministers of thy word; and may they be animated, faithful, zealous and successful in the office of imparting and enforcing the truths, the warnings and the hopes of the gospel. Be graciously present with all worshipping assemblies this day. Assist them to hold communion with thy spirit. May they feel what a privilege it is to draw near to thee; what a happiness it is to love thee; what a reasonable service it is to offer up themselves to thee a living sacrifice. O God, grant that the kingdom of thy Son may be more widely extended and more firmly established, and that all the nations of the earth may come to the knowledge and worship of thee, through Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. In his name we offer our prayer, ascribing unto thee all power and glory forever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Father of mercies, who fillest the universe with thy presence, and the souls of the humble with thy grace; at the close of this thy holy day we assemble around the family altar, to rejoice once more in thy spiritual blessings. We would feel sympathy with the holy calmness of this hour, and approach thee as those who have learned of Christ, who have drank deep of his pure and heavenly temper, and who have been called to glory and virtue. With ready steps and with cheerful minds have we joined our christian brethren who keep this day holy to the Lord. May the affections, which have been called out by the services of thy house, now accompany our devotions and go with us through the week.

Giver of every good, when we recount thy rich and varied provisions for our eternal welfare, may our souls kindle into the highest praise. Glory be to thee, that when all flesh had corrupted its way, and the world was dead in trespasses and sins, without the knowledge of thee, then thine eye of pity did look on man, and thine arm was outstretched for his deliverance. Blessed be thy name, that in the fulness of time thou didst send thy well-beloved Son, not that he should be the messenger of wo, not that he should condemn the world, but that the world through him might be

saved. Thanks be to thee, that he is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. How do we rejoice in his precious discoveries and his heavenly doctrine, in his wonderful works and his spotless example! How are we filled with admiration that he was made perfect through sufferings, that he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death upon the cross, that he is set forth as a mercy-seat through faith, and that he saves us from future misery by affording us the means of escape. Glory be to thee, that by his death he has dispelled the terrors of the grave, that he is exalted above principalities and powers, that a name is given him which is above every name, that he is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto thee through him, and that he has entered into heaven as our Captain and Forerunner.

—O God, never can we sufficiently thank thee for that bread of life which came down from heaven. What a table hast thou prepared for us in the wilderness of this world! Hungering and thirsting after righteousness, may it be our meat and drink to do thy will. We beseech thee to feed us continually with religious wisdom, that we may come to the full stature of perfect men in Christ Jesus. As we have received him for our Lord and Saviour, O help us to walk in him, to be transformed into his image, to be tenderly touched by his sufferings, and to rely firmly on his

promises. This day reminds us that he burst the gates of the grave and led captivity captive. He now lives with thee in heaven. O grant that we may obtain all the benefits which flow from his death, his resurrection and his glory. We presume not to come to thine altar trusting in our own righteousness, but in thine infinite compassion and unmerited love in Jesus Christ. Pardon our sins according to the gracious covenant thou hast made with thy people through him. We desire to renounce every passion and pursuit inconsistent with thy service, and with the gratitude we owe to our great Deliverer. More and more earnestly would we pray, that we may be crucified unto the world, and hereafter live by the faith of thy Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. As our Prophet may we receive his instructions; as our Mediator may we rely on his intercession; as our King may we obey his commands; as our Example may we tread in his steps, and whatsoever we do, in word or deed, may we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. When we think of our transgressions of thy law, may we remember him who is the end of the law for righteousness. When we feel our sin, may we think of him whose blood cleanseth from all sin, and when with desponding hearts we view our trials and dangers, may we hear the voice which says, 'Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.' Indulgent God, we pray for the spirit of Jesus; and though

we see him not, may we rejoice in him with joy unspeakable and full of glory; and at last receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

God of the Sabbath, we thank thee for sanctuary privileges. May the religious lessons we have received, not only elevate our minds, but have an abiding influence on our lives. Bless those of us now before thee; and being members of the same spiritual body, do thou enable us, whether we assemble in thy sanctuary or unite in our families, to meet together with one accord and praise thee with gladness and singleness of heart. And when thy dutiful children shall come to inherit the kingdom prepared for them, may each one of us be found worthy to join that blessed assembly, and to enter with them thy heavenly rest. *

Ever-present God, to thy watchful providence we now cheerfully resign ourselves, and all whom we love, for the coming night; and may the morning return us to the proper engagements of life, better disposed to fulfil its duties, better prepared to resist its temptations, and better able to support its trials. We offer our prayers through the Son of thy love, ascribing to thee praise everlasting. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

Almighty and most merciful God, whose name s excellent in all the earth, thou inhabitest eterıity, and dwellest in light which no man can ıpproach.

— We thy sinful creatures would bow before hee, acknowledging how unworthy we are to ıppear in thy presence, or to lift up so much ıs an eye to those holy heavens where thou lwellest. Though we are unworthy to presume ın thy favor, yet, so great is thy condescension, hou hast encouraged our addresses to thee by the ;racious promise of love and acceptance. With ıumble confidence, then, would we approach thy hrone of grace, beseeching thee, in the name of hy beloved Son, to be merciful unto us and forgive us according to thine abundant goodness.

Indulgent God, having been invigorated in nind and body by another Sabbath, we would ıow unite in asking thy blessing upon us as we go orth to the active duties of another week. Help ıs, we beseech thee, to perform these duties ac:eptably to thee and to those around us. Let us ıever plan what we may not ask thee to aid, and ıever execute what we may not ask thee to bless. n all our ways we would acknowledge thee, and nay a sense of thy presence, a regard to thine ıuthority and the hope of thine acceptance, direct

our views and govern our actions. Give us the spirit of diligence and fidelity; and may we not deem it enough to be blameless and harmless, but may the light of our good lives so shine before others that they shall be led in like manner to glorify thee. May our daily duties advance us in wisdom and justice, in patience and charity. During this day and every day, help us to keep our bodies in purity and temperance, and to exercise our souls in meekness and humility. Help us to love thee with all our powers, and to prove the sincerity of our affection by our active beneficence.

In our intercourse with others may we sacredly regard the principles of uprightness and candor. We pray that truth may govern our words and honesty regulate our dealings. May our manners be mild, our feelings compassionate and our wishes charitable; and thus at all times and in all places may we reflect the image of our Saviour.

— Especially, O God, lead us seriously to consider the great religious work which we are sent here to do, and may the discipline of earth prepare us for heaven, so that our exit from this world shall be our entrance to thy rest. And may we never forget, that a life of religion is a life of active duty in our several stations, of prompt self-sacrifice and cheerful piety, of christian courage and meek submission. May the life we live in the flesh be by faith in thy Son. Save us, we entreat thee, from consuming our days in vanity or indolence, in emp

ty wishes or corrupting pursuits. Encourage us to assert the rights of virtue against the usurpations of sin, and teach us to resist those deceitful reasonings which would lessen the criminality of injustice. O God, look with thy favor upon our remaining part of life; and grant that the days few or many which thou shalt yet allow us, may pass in reasonable trust, in holy fear, in ardent love. Strengthen our good purposes till they shall produce lives pleasing to thee. Enlighten us with divine knowledge, animate us with heavenly hope, and so comfort us with thy love, that we, who have been created by thy power and sustained by thy providence may live to answer the purposes of our being.

Father of mercies, we desire to dedicate to thee those lives thou art sparing. Grant that in whatever way thou art pleased to make us the instruments of usefulness in thy world, may we willingly work together with thy gracious providence; and in the conclusion of this day may we be able to review our conduct with increasing satisfaction, and have our hope in thy mercy still more established. *

We offer our petitions through the Son of thy love, and to thee be praise forever. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

High and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity and art infinitely exalted above every other being, look down in mercy upon thy needy and dependent children, who, at the close of the day, have gathered around the family altar with the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving.

— We approach thee with the persuasion, that no tribute from mortals can add to thy happiness or to thy glory. But we rejoice, that though thou art too great to need our offerings, thou art too good to disregard them. We bless thee for assuring us that thou art our Father, and that thine ear is always open to the prayers of thy children. O grant that we may never prove unmindful of the hand that formed us, or refuse to listen to the voice which calls us to glory and virtue. It is our first desire that we may be a family of sincere Christians, that our habitation may be a sanctuary, the abode of religious knowledge and pure devotion. Make every heart an altar to thee. May the religion of Christ, possessing our wills and pervading our affections, become a bond of union, the spring of virtue, the animating motive to duty, a firm support under trial, and the pledge of thy present favor and thine everlasting love.

Father of all, thou hast kindly given us into

each other's care, and to thee we are indebted for the tear of sympathy and the hand of kindness. What we ask for ourselves we desire for all the families on earth. Increase the number of those who serve thee with holy joy and with a christian life. Multiply the triumphs of truth over error, and of the filial spirit of love over gloomy fears. In all the habitations of men, from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof, may the incense of acceptable praise and the offering of virtuous lives be presented unto thee. We pray for our rulers, beseeching thee to endue them with wisdom and benevolence. Let not oppression be on the side of judgment, nor power be mistaken for right. We pray for instructers of youth; may they feel their moral responsibility, and while they inform the understanding may they direct the affections of those committed to their care. Bless the ministers of religion; give them that love of souls which Jesus showed, and through thy grace, may they be as the dew of heaven to thy church. Inspire parents with the sacredness of their high and solemn trust; and grant, O Lord, that they may place before their children those examples which can be followed with safety; and when they die, may they leave behind them such characters as may be remembered with gratitude and veneration. And may children be mindful to make proper returns for the kindness of their parents, doing all they can to

promote their happiness. Incline the young, we pray thee, to cultivate a sober mind, to remember thee their Creator, and to acquire those habits which shall secure their present usefulness and their future peace. We pray for those in middle life, and do thou lead them to labor, while it is day, in thy service and for the benefit of society, before the night comes. We pray for the aged; do thou support them under their infirmities, and may their example convince the rising generation, that religion has power to shed comfort upon the decline of life, and to smooth the passage to the tomb. O God, grant that all, whether as parents or children, as masters or servants, as members of families or citizens of the state, may discharge their obligations with diligence and fidelity.

In the name of our Mediator we offer these our prayers and intercessions, ascribing to thee never-ending praise. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, the great source of life, the benevolent power, in whom are all our springs of improvement and happiness. Our voice shalt thou hear in the morning, and to thee will we direct our prayer. With sentiments of gratitude, at the beginning of every day, we would

look up to thee, whose care has protected us through the hours of darkness, whose goodness has refreshed us with sleep. Ignorant as we are of what a day may bring forth, we would with confiding trust in a paternal providence and with mutual solicitude for each other's welfare, now present to thee our supplications for safety, guidance and help.

— Gracious God, thy power we see in our creation, thy bounty we feel in our blessings. Yet not to this world have thy favors been limited. Thou hast given us souls which are to live and act forever, and thou art training us up here for greater good hereafter. We thank thee for the instructions and example of the wise and pious, and for our many opportunities of cultivating knowledge and virtue. Most of all, we praise and magnify thy holy name for the proof of divine love in the manifestation of thy Son Jesus Christ. In his doctrines thou hast given us truth to enlighten our minds and sanctify our hearts; in his life thou hast set before us a model of the most exalted goodness to animate and direct our endeavors to serve thee; and having suffered death upon the cross to confirm the gospel of reconciliation, thou didst raise him by thy mighty power from the grave, that he might become the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him. For these blessings, great God, we thank thee.

But while we trust in thy providence and speak

of thy grace, we must remember our unfaithfulness. Thou hast given us laws founded in a regard to our highest welfare, yet our lives have sometimes said, 'Who is the Lord, that we should regard him?' With shame and confusion of face we acknowledge that we have not duly listened to thy teachings, or been sensible of thy great clemency. We have often neglected the government of our thoughts, and the direction of our lives. We have permitted temptation to renew its strength, and have exposed ourselves to thy just displeasure.

Parent of mercies, let that compassion, which has spared us so long, lead us to repentance; and may that contrition be ours, which shall blot our sins from the book of thy remembrance. And now, we fervently pray thee, give us just views of the growing power of evil habit, and help us by early resistance to escape its tyranny. While our hands are busied in the cares of life, let not our hearts be engrossed by its desires. Thou art continually making our duty and happiness the same, and encouraging our obedience by all that is desirable in the present world, and by all that can be hoped for in the future; enable us therefore to serve thee henceforth with filial love and holy fear. We would devote to thee the remainder of our days. O God, accept, defend and sanctify us. What we know not, teach thou us. Whatever in us is evil, dispose and enable us to reform. Whatever in us is good, aid us to carry forward to

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ɜ as shall be best for us, though we may neg-
o pray for them; and deny us those which
l be hurtful, though we should desire them.
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: Lord; and do thou help us to walk as be-
hine eye, and to live as those who must give
count of themselves to thee. *
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lves to thy watchful providence during the
ıg hours of duty. Under thy care we are
's safe; and to thee who hast created us, to
who hast redeemed us, and to thee who art
ifying the hearts of thy faithful servants, be
· and glory through Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

thou who art over all, Creator and Preserver;
didst speak and the world was made; thy
lence watches over the works of thy hand,
he happiness of thy creatures is the object
y government. Believing that thou takest
ıre in those who come to thee as the disci-
of Christ, we now beseech thee through him
ar us in heaven thy holy habitation, and when
hearest, to answer and forgive.
ıth hearts truly moved by a sense of thy free

bounty and sustaining care, we would lay on our family altar the evening sacrifice of gratitude and praise. Giver of every good, we thank thee for sparing us so long and granting us so much. For our food and clothing, for our habitation and health, for our safety and success we would daily thank thee. We behold the displays of thy kindness in our creation and strength, in our nature and condition, in the structure of our bodies, in the nobler faculties of our minds, in the exercise of reason, in the intimations of conscience, in the affections we cherish, in the sympathies we feel, and in the means of grace and the hopes of glory. To thee, Heavenly Parent, we owe it that we were not deserted in helpless infancy; and it is of thy mercy that we are not at present in great affliction, languishing on the bed of sickness, groaning under the acutest pains, or pining in want. O thou who art kind even to the unthankful, grant that we may evermore acknowledge thee in thy bounty that cheers, in thy power that sustains, in thy wisdom that directs, in thy truth that enlightens, and in thy mercy that forgives us. Henceforth may we no more separate bounties and gratitude, faith and good works, christianity and thy grace; but, seeing thee as thou art and where thou art, may thy mercies lead us to pious obedience.

— Omniscient God, who knowest the wants we cannot feel and the thoughts we cannot utter,

we would now, in view of all thy goodness, ask the aid of thy spirit to make us such as thou wouldst have us to be. What in us is dark, do thou illumine; what is weak do thou strengthen; what is erroneous do thou correct, and what is low, do thou raise and support. God of compassion, our hope is in thee. To thee we would surrender every thing; ourselves, our friends, and our all; all that we possess, and all that we expect. Dispose of us as shall seem to thee fit. We would be wholly and forever thine. O claim us as thy right, keep us as thy charge, love us as thy children, defend us when we are in danger, heal us when we are wounded, revive us when we are fainting, and raise us when we fall. May we never forget, that we pass our lives in thy constant presence, and that death resigns us to thy gracious disposal. Convince us that it is more solemn to live than to die, since our condition in an eternal world will depend on the characters we form here. O may the lamp of religion be within us trimmed and burning, that we may be ready and approved when our Lord shall come. *

Our Preserver and Benefactor, we thank thee for thy providence over us through the day which is past, and may it still be continued through the night which is coming. Let not our beds become our graves; but may quiet sleep refresh us for the duties of another day; and to thy great name be glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Glory and honor be unto thee, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, who fillest the heavens and the earth with thy presence and thy love. Glory and honor be unto thee, the father and friend of man, who hast formed us after thine own image, made us intelligent, free, and immortal, and raised us to the dignity of thy children and thy worshippers. Adoration and praise be unto thee, the Giver of mercy and the God of grace, who hast pitied thy frail and erring creatures, and given us a Redeemer who is able to save to the uttermost.

— As the disciples of him, who came to show us the Father, we would approach thee at this time, desiring to fill our souls with adoring thoughts of thy greatness and excellence. We thank thee for the unclouded revelation of thyself in the gospel. But who can comprehend the Infinite? who can find out the Almighty unto perfection? We are lost in wonder while we meditate on thy perfections, which are subject to no change or decay; on thy power, which no exertions can weaken; on thy bounty, which no communications of good can exhaust; on thy patience, which our provocations do not weary, and on thy mercy which still waiteth to be gracious. First and greatest of all Beings, absolutely

perfect, who art from everlasting to everlasting, we would adore thee, as the first cause and constant support of all things visible and invisible, the Maker of all worlds, and the Father of all men. All life proceeds from thee, the fountain of life. All strength is derived from thine omnipotence. All happiness flows from thee, the source and giver of good. By thy breath we are animated; by thy power we are upheld; by thy favor we are blessed. Thou art our rock and defence, our hope and life, and without thee we are nothing.

Glorious God, we would approach thee with that reverence which is due to thy greatness, and with that hope which becomes thy mercy. As we, who were afar off, are brought near by the blood of Christ, we pray, through him, that the love of thee may stand before all other love, and the fear of thee banish all other fears. As thou hast conferred on us the strongest assurance of grace, enriched us with comfort under the trials of life, delivered us from the fear of death and hell, and set before us that path which leads to endless pleasures at thy right hand, we earnestly pray, that we may be children worthy of such a Parent. Our heart's desire and prayer is, that we may live under an habitual sense of the relation we sustain towards thee. May a sense of thy greatness inspire us with reverential awe, and the remembrance of thy mercy lead us to conse-

crate to thee our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice. May cheerful obedience ever prove our gratitude, and patient submission ever evince our trust. O God, we would imitate thee. Do thou purify us and we shall be pure. Help us to take thine image, and may we go from glory to glory till we are made perfect in thy likeness. *

God of our lives, whose eye is over us for good, thou hast carried us so far in our journey of life; we ask for this day the same kind presence and protection. Do thou be our God in life, our hope in death, and our everlasting portion beyond the grave. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Father of mercies, and God of all grace, Maker, Preserver and Judge of men; having experienced fresh proofs this day of thy care and bounty, we would not compose our bodies to sleep till our souls have acknowledged thy goodness, and sent up their requests to thy throne of mercy.

— Thou hast watched over us with a care that is never weary, and with a kindness which loves to bless. Days and nights testify that thou hast done for us what we could not do for ourselves. But alas, how often have we been unmindful of our dependence! We mourn over sins of thought

and affection, of word and deed. We lament that we have at any time forgotten thy love or violated thy law, and that unsubdued passions have so much estranged us from thee and virtue. O thou to whom all hearts are open, who hast mercy in all thy ways and desirest not the death of sinners, look down upon us in tender compassion, and enable us, through a Redeemer, to overcome our evil desires and to lay aside our besetting sins. God of strength, strengthen thou us; and may that sorrow be ours which worketh repentance unto life.

While we acknowledge thy mercies, and lament our unworthiness, we fervently pray, that our wishes and conduct henceforth may be such as thou wilt approve. Let thy discipline convince us that we are pensioners on thy bounty, and dependent on thy power. O God, suffer us not to make shipwreck of our best hopes through ambition or vanity; but do thou keep our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. Enable us so to govern our bodily appetites, that they may answer the useful ends for which they were implanted in our nature. Help us to know ourselves, in order that we may eradicate any evil propensities, before they shall have gained a dangerous strength. To this end, we pray for that effectual faith in Jesus Christ, which works by love and purifies the heart, which is a shield in every temptation, a guide in every duty,

and a hope in every trial. O that our hearts may be so touched with the spirit of Christ, that his religion shall shed its power on our souls. We would be christians in truth and in deed. O thou, without whose grace all our wisdom is folly and without whose help all our efforts are vain, give to our understandings spiritual light. Thou fountain of knowledge, give us wisdom, the assistant of thy seats; send her from thy holy heavens, from the throne of thy greatness, that she may be present with us, and labor with us, and teach us what is acceptable to thee. Throw not a cloud over our prospects, but give us hopes full of immortality. May we show that we are born of thee, by keeping thy commandments; and may we look beyond the perplexities of our earthly course to a higher portion and a better happiness than the world can give.

— And now, Holy Father, we would close our prayer, imploring, with renewed earnestness, thy providential direction in all our ways, kind deliverance from moral danger, gracious forgiveness of our manifold sins, abundant spiritual blessings for ourselves and others, greater progress in christian piety, firmer establishment in every good word and work; and, above all, a reception at death into thy hands, and a full admission to eternal glory.

These our requests we make in the name of him, whom thou hearest always; and through him do thou accept us now and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O thou who art the Rewarder of those that diligently seek thee; merciful God, receive, with thy gracious audience, the prayers and praises of thy children.

— We would adore thee as the first and best of Beings, the source of all power, intelligence and hope. Without thee we are nothing and can do nothing; on thee we depend from day to day, and on thee we must depend forever. Thine energy sustains, thy presence animates, thy gracious influence blesses the universe. Our ways and purposes are open to thine inspection, our joys and sorrows are dispensed by thy providence. Thy mercy has given us a Redeemer and Guide, and thy undeserved love adds to our days and multiplies our means, that our hearts may be drawn to thy service. Accept our thanks, great God, for our being and reason, our health and friends, our food and raiment, and for the various comforts and conveniences of life. Most of all, we thank thee for sending thy Son to save us from the consequences of sin by raising us to faith, righteousness, and piety. As we are adopted by christianity into the family of heaven, we pray that, on earth, we may be of the same christian spirit, love as brethren, and live in peace; and do thou, O God of peace, be with us.

Merciful Parent of the human family, thou hast united us to our fellow men by strong and tender ties. By sympathy and prayer we would make their joys and sorrows our own. May each one of us do all we can to advance thy glory, by advancing the good of those around us. We pray for parents; may they rightly estimate the talents put into their hands. In the momentous work of education may they teach their children to view thee as a kind and watchful Father, who art able and willing to do more for them than any earthly parent. Forbid that they should ever forget that their offspring belong to thee; and that, if, through their criminal neglect or bad example, thy moral creatures suffer, thou wilt require them at their hands. O grant them ability to strengthen every intellectual power and moral faculty, and give them wisdom to direct each to its proper object. May children also feel their obligations, and do what they can to assist and gratify their parents, by pure, industrious, and holy lives. Give success, we beseech thee, to family instruction and domestic worship; and may the world take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus, and learned of him who was meek and lowly.

— May those who are placed above others in condition, go before them in the profession of truth and the practice of virtue. May those of us who serve, be faithful in all things, knowing that thine eye is always upon us. We pray thee to give us

humanity towards the brute creation. Prevent every unreasonable demand upon their strength; and dispose us to nourish them with a generosity like that, which feeds the young ravens when they cry.

God of the nations, prosper the efforts now made by individuals and communities for the suppression of destructive habits and pernicious errors. Bless the land in which we live. Give success to the lawful labor of its inhabitants, and may public prosperity be established on the durable basis of public virtue. May warlike passions lose their power on the earth, and righteousness and peace universally prevail. O Lord, grant our prayer, that we may become fellow-workers with thee in advancing the purposes of thy moral administration; and while we desire the good of others, may we actively promote every plan of public and private usefulness, and help to raise human society to its most improved and happy state.

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Hear us, O God, in these our intercessions, through thy mercy in Christ Jesus, through whom to thee be honor and dominion forever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

High and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, to whom the world owes its being and support; thou hast said to us, Seek ye my face: thy face O Lord, we will seek. We would raise our affections to thee in filial trust and supreme veneration. The heavens are thy throne; the earth is thy footstool. Honor and majesty are before thee. Powerful is thine arm; unsearchable are thy judgments; righteous is thy reign, and with thee there is no respect of persons. Thy displeasure is revealed against all ungodliness and impurity; thy grace is sure to the humble and penitent; thy counsels are counsels of peace, and thy chastisements are chastisements of love. We address ourselves to thee, as creatures who cannot exist without thy support, who cannot be happy without thy blessing.

— We thank thee for those supports and satisfactions which have sustained and gladdened us in every stage of our pilgrimage. With our whole souls we would thank thee, that we were made with capacities to know and love thee forever. Thou hast sent thy Son to explain to us our nature and reveal our destination. May fervent gratitude fill our hearts for his divine mission, for the redemption he brought, and for the glad tidings of pardon he proclaimed. Blessed be thy

name for his glorious gospel, for the privilege of freely inquiring into its meaning, and for the liberty of openly declaring our faith. O God, we rejoice before thee, that his doctrines clearly enlighten the human mind, that his precepts plainly point out the path of duty, that his example directs and encourages our works of love, that his death speaks peace and joy to the upright believer, that his resurrection establishes our trust in him as our Saviour, and that his ascension to glory enlivens our best and strongest hopes. Indulgent Father, let it be our first and purest desire, to use faithfully the talents we possess, and to walk worthy of our holy vocation. We ask for christian faith and christian piety. May that good will which the Saviour exercised, become active in our affections; and the peace which he left, be found in our conduct. Preserve us from those prejudices which pervert the judgment, from those passions which debase the understanding, from those mistakes which weaken the principles of virtue, and from those superstitious fears which betray men into unworthy conceptions of thee. O help us to shun all presumption, and to maintain a humble mind.

O God, as thou hast created us in the image of thine own eternity, and given us an interest in every moment of the future, we pray that we may know thee more and serve thee better, make thee the object of our highest confidence, love

thee with all our souls, and walk according to thy will.

Assist us to learn more of that Saviour, who was meek and lowly in heart. May our faith in him be strengthened as our lives advance, and may the same mind be in us which was in him. May his gospel be successful in correcting our errors, and in forming within us the divine graces of the christian character. May it support us under the sorrows of this transitory life, and prepare us for the glory which is to be revealed. Having lived as his true disciples, may the remembrance of his victory over the grave banish every fear from our bosoms in the hour of death; and O grant, that it may be our happy lot, in the day of judgment, to hear the Saviour say to us, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. *

Hear us, Author of our mercies, in his name who loved us and gave himself for us; and to thee be ascribed the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O thou who saidst, Let there be light, and there was light; Infinite Jehovah, thy hand laid the

foundations of the earth, and stretched forth the expanse of heaven. How wonderful and majestic are these exhibitions of thy power! But how infinitely superior art thou, the great Creator of all! Every being and every system lie open to thy inspection and are subject to thy will. Thou art God alone. Thou holdest all causes in thy hand, and doest thy pleasure in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth below. Thou makest spirits thine angels, and flames of fire thy ministers. By thine appointment, seed time and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, succeed each other in their order, their beauty and their use. The laws of nature are thy continued agency, and all their effects are the dispensations of thy providence.

With the opening day we come to present to our heavenly Protector the tribute of thanksgiving. During the defenceless hours of sleep thine eye has steadily watched over us; and thy presence has been the presence of a Father.

— But while we rejoice in the light which renews the face of nature, what thanks do we not owe thee, the God of nature and grace, that the day-spring from on high has visited us; that the sun of righteousness has risen, to give light to them who sat in darkness, and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

O God, we lament the defective returns we have made for thy great and undeserved goodness.

We lament the carelessness of our minds, the coldness of our affections, and the languor of our prayers. We lament that we know so little of religion and feel so little of its power. Merciful Father, give us the comfort of thy pardoning love, that we may have hope. Make thyself known to us in our moral restoration; and O grant, that henceforth we may have the supreme love of thee in our souls, a lively faith in thy Son, a pure benevolence towards our fellow men, and in all our actions, the spirit of that law, which requires doing to others as we wish others should do to us.

— Bless each one of us now before thee; and grant, that as individuals we may be discreet in ordering our affairs, industrious in performing our duties, moderate in our desires, temperate in our pleasures, and, at all times, heartily disposed to every good word and work. Forbid that we should look with envy on the possessions of others; but rather, in the spirit of the gospel, may we seek and promote the welfare of our neighbors. O God, help us to distinguish things that differ, and to approve such as are excellent. Let not praise fill us with pride, or censure with revenge. Let not riches or poverty estrange our hearts from true religion. What we need do thou give us; what we possess do thou aid us to use aright. But however thou shalt deal with us in our temporal concerns, give us, we fervently pray thee,

that holiness without which no man can see the Lord.

Merciful Parent, smile upon us in our social relations. Make us a family who shall delight to serve thee. Let the voice of health, joy and safety be heard in our dwelling. In our daily intercourse with each other and with the world, may we obey the laws of equity and kindness. May we be honest and frank in our dealings; courteous and prudent in our words; candid to each other's frailties and infirmities; tender of the reputation of our neighbor; kind and sympathetic to the needy and afflicted; grateful to our friends and benefactors; generous and forgiving to our enemies, and charitable to all men. *

Hear our morning prayer, O Lord, through Jesus Christ; in whose name we ascribe to thee all honor and glory forever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, who art the Most High over all the earth: who is a God like unto thee, glorious in holiness, doing wonders? Who, by searching can find out God? Who can find out the Almighty unto perfection? O Lord, there is none great but thee. To number the ages of thine eternity, to measure the

spaces of thine immensity, to describe the brightness of thy glory, to define the limits of thy power, to fathom the depths of thy wisdom, or to estimate the riches of thy grace, we cannot pretend. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. With profound veneration we would adore the Being we cannot comprehend. From thee, who livest forever and ever, we, who are but of yesterday, would ask protection, guidance and mercy.

— O God, we rejoice that thine almighty power is always directed by unerring wisdom, and exerted in effecting the purposes of boundless love. We this moment are monuments of thy sustaining care and fatherly goodness; for thou hast brought us in safety to this hour, and through another day we have tasted that the Lord is gracious. May the sacrifice of thanksgiving ascend in the prayer of faith. Heavenly Father, we acknowledge with gratitude the daily bounties of thy providence; our temporal favors, our private mercies, and the share we have had in public blessings. Thou hast rejoiced over us to do us good. Thou hast daily spread our table and filled our cup. We would be content with that portion of good things allotted us, trusting thy paternal care to fulfil our reasonable hopes, and supply our necessary wants. May we consider ourselves as stewards, and be ready to distribute, willing to communicate. Where thou hast given riches, do thou give a thankful heart and a gener-

ous hand; and may thy bounties, wherever collected, become the means of extending thy truth and supporting thy law.

O Father, most holy and gracious, with devout joy we recognise thee as the source of our spiritual blessings. We adore thy mercy in sending thy Son, and thank thee that he came to bear witness to thy truth and to save a guilty world. We thank thee that he offered pardon to the contrite, pointed out the way to eternal happiness by his preaching and example, and sealed the promises of the covenant with his dying blood. May we meditate upon thy purposes in giving a Saviour to the world, till our hearts are warmed with true devotion. We ask for a strong and practical faith in Christ. We ask for more religious zeal, more active piety, more christian good-will and more divine light. May we show that we are born of thee, by keeping thy commandments. O give us steadfastness in our religious purposes, and let not our goodness be formal or transient; but, cleaving to thee and holding fast that which is good, may our path be that of the just, which shines more and more unto the perfect day.

— Smile upon us, O God, in our social relations. May we be happy in one another, and live as those who would be united hereafter. Preserve us from following a multitude to do evil. May our choice of companions fall upon those who fear thee and keep thy commandments.

Arm us against the enticements of sinners, and the influence of seductive example; and may it be our first desire, to think, will, and act under a deep sense of moral responsibility. *

And now will the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Our Father who art in heaven, with the trust of children and the hopes of Christians, we again gather ourselves around this altar; and as a part of thy family on earth, we would come with united affection and filial love, to thank thee, that thou hast called us into existence, and made our existence a blessing to us. We thank thee that thou hast formed us to be helpers of each other's joy, comforters of each other's grief, and fellow-heirs of a blissful immortality. Grant that we may receive the adoption of sons, and may we fashion ourselves according to the example of him, who has called us with a holy calling. Regarding

thee as our common Parent, may we look upon every human being as a brother.

Inspire us with a due veneration of thy sacred majesty, and in thought, word and deed may we *hallow thy name.* O that thy name might be hallowed among the heathen; and do thou so bring them home to thy flock that they may be one fold under one shepherd; and may all the Gentiles glorify thee for thy mercy, and rejoice together with thy chosen people.

Almighty King of kings, *may thy kingdom come.* May we ever demean ourselves as obedient subjects of thy moral government by a cheerful and universal compliance with thy laws. May thy word have free course and be glorified, till every human purpose shall be brought into obedience to thee, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of the Lord and of his Christ, and every people, tribe and country be blessed with pure and undefiled religion, with civil and religious liberty, with knowledge, order and peace.

Disposer of events; in every occurrence of life we would say, It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth to him good. *May thy will be done* by us and concerning us. May the devotedness of thy creatures *on earth* be as sincere and constant *as it is in heaven.*

O thou who knowest our necessities before we ask, do thou *give us this day our daily bread.*

Bless our substance, and prosper the labor of our hands. Give us neither poverty nor riches to our hurt. Feed us with food convenient for us. Having food and raiment, as thy wisdom orders, may we therewith be content.

O thou who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of the truly penitent, *forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.* From thy forbearance shown to us, may we learn to govern every emotion of anger, and to abstain from every degree and kind of revenge. We would forgive one another, even as thou, through Jesus Christ, hast forgiven us.

Lead us not into temptation. Subject us not to trials too great for our strength; *but deliver us from the evil* there is in the world. In our conflicts with the enemies of our purity and salvation, may we have the assistance needful to prevent our falling into sin. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from all pride, vanity and selfishness; from envy, injustice and hypocrisy; and from those evil communications which corrupt good morals. May thy grace be sufficient for us, and may we come off conquerors through him who hath loved us.

O thou who art great, and greatly to be praised; good, and greatly to be loved; we address these petitions to thee, believing thou art able to do exceeding abundantly for us, even above what we can ask or think; *for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen*

SATURDAY EVENING.

O thou who art the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, do thou hear us with favor when we pray, and grant us thine aid and blessing. Thou art the first, and thou the last, the ever living and true God. Our times are in thy hands, and with thee is the number of our months. At the close of another day and another week, we are assembled in the scene of our domestic blessings, to give thanks to thee and to glorify thy name. We are thy creatures, and we would come to acknowledge our entire and absolute dependence on thee. We are thy children, and we would look to our Father in heaven with reverence and love. We are cherished and supported by thy bounty, and we desire that our hearts may rise in the offering of gratitude to thee. We are unstable, and ignorant and weak, and we would pray for thy guidance, instruction and support. We are sinners, and implore the mercy of the God of grace. Enable us, O Lord, to come before thee with a deep and impressive faith in thy being and providence, with joy in thy wise and righteous government, with gratitude for thy unnumbered mercies, with the spirit of acquiescence in thine appointments and of submission to thine authority.

— By all around us and all within us, we are

taught that thou art good, and that thy tender mercies are over all thy works. If sometimes the portion of life is bitterness and sorrow, we bless thee for the assurance we have, that afflictions are messengers sent for wise and good purposes; and that like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him; for he knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust. From thy bounteous hand, O God, all our blessings descend, and every day we experience thy goodness in our social enjoyments, in the health of our bodies, in the peace of our minds, and in our means of improvement and happiness. Through Jesus Christ thy grace has been continually proffered to us, and the light of divine truth has been shining upon us.

We would particularly remember with gratitude the mercies which we have received during the past day and the past week. In the midst of our various cares and pursuits, thou hast been pleased to protect and bless the members of this family; and, notwithstanding our follies and sins, our day of grace is yet prolonged, and we are spared, while so many have gone down to darkness and dust. O God, may each heart among us be an altar to thy praise. Suffer us not to go from day to day and from week to week, supported by thy power and blessed by thy bounty, and yet unmindful of the hand which upholds us and makes us happy. Give us grace to be grateful,

as we ought, for that best gift of thy goodness, the gift of thy Son, our blessed Saviour.

— Glory to God in the highest for him, who came to seek and to save that which was lost, to proclaim peace and mercy to man, to bring back thine erring children to thee, their Father, and to introduce us to an inheritance of hope incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. O thou whose mercy is not wearied by our ingratitude, we pray that our hearts may be touched and softened by a sense of our own unworthiness. What are we, O our Father, that thy blessings, temporal and spiritual, should be thus lavished upon us?

We confess that thy bounties have not always led us to obedience. We have wandered from thee, do thou restore us; we are polluted, do thou purify us; we are guilty, and do thou pardon us. Especially we beseech thee to forgive us the errors, follies and sins of the past day and the past week; and enable us, for the future, to have better motives and loftier purposes, more purity and earnestness in good things, more love and devotion to thee.

O thou to whom the darkness and the light are both alike, and who art the Protector of all that put their trust in thee; before we retire to repose this night, we would beseech thee to have each member of this family in thy holy keeping. May sleep refresh our bodies and thy grace prepare our

minds for the sacred duties of the coming Sabbath. May our spirits then be filled with tranquil, devout and solemn recollections; and may the things, which belong to our everlasting peace, possess our souls. *

We offer our prayer in the name of him, who hath loved us and given himself for us; through whom be rendered unto thee, the most high God, unceasing praises. Amen.

SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Our Father who art in heaven; as the children of thy family and the objects of thy care, we now come to dedicate to thee the lives thou art sparing. Thy watchful providence has made us to sleep in safety and awake in peace. With ready and grateful joy would we hail the return of this day, devoted to the special exercises of piety, the instructions of religion, and the outward worship of thee our God. We desire to hallow thy name. We would adore thee as the high and lofty One who inhabitest eternity. The universe is thy temple. Thy mind pervades creation. Thine

eye is at this moment upon us. Searcher of hearts, we rejoice that there is one above us who is infinitely wise, powerful and good; who loveth us more than any other being loves us, who careth for us more than any other being can care for us, who careth for us more than we care for ourselves.

Giver of every good, we would sanctify this day, as we ought, to thee. We would consecrate ourselves to thy service with the deepest humility; resigning to thee those hearts which thou hast formed for thyself; surrendering all we possess to thy gracious disposal, humbly praying that nothing may ever separate us from thy love. With lively faith may we this day remember him, who died that we might live; and may we so attend to the things that concern our everlasting peace, that it may be as one of the days of heaven to our souls. Lamenting our want of care to profit by thy Sabbaths, do thou dispose us to engage in the solemnities of thy house this day with sincerity and fervor. May we receive with attention and candor the instructions and warnings of the christian preacher. With devotedness of heart may we bow to the authority of thy precepts; with gladness may we receive the declarations of thy mercy; with ardent desires may we seek spiritual blessings for ourselves, and with true charity intercede for others.

— Bless the christian church. Let thy word,

which goeth forth this day, not return unto thee void, but may thy grace so rest on faithful preachers, that what is sown in weakness shall be raised in power. And we earnestly pray, that, in Jesus Christ, the hungry every where may find the bread which came down from heaven, and the thirsty the pure waters of life. By him may the naked be clothed with the garments of salvation, and the prisoners visited with the liberty wherewith he makes his people free. *

Holy Father, hear us as the disciples of thy Son, and to thee be ascribed all glory and praise forever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

O thou that hearest prayer, we would adore thee as the only proper object of religious worship. Thou art God in heaven above; and upon the earth beneath there is none else. Thou art the first, and thou the last. Thou art God alone. In the name of him, who hath showed us the Father, we would now come before thee with profound veneration and cheerful trust. O God, we would not forget the presence in which we stand; and though it is weakness which addresses omnipotence, though it is ignorance which supplicates perfect wisdom, and though it is the voice

of imperfection to a Being of spotless purity, yet we come with childlike confidence, for thou hast invited us. We would not bring thee a vain oblation. O save us from a careless, formal, hypocritical worship. Pardon our wavering and forgetful minds, and help us to serve thee with undivided hearts.

— Truly would we praise that goodness, which has opened again for us the doors of the sanctuary and led our feet to the house of prayer. We bless thee for what we have heard this day. What ardent thanks should we render thee for the gospel of peace, for the glad tidings of salvation, for the triumphs of a risen Redeemer, and for the sure hopes of immortality. O let it not be that Christ has lived, suffered and died, and we have received no benefit. Source of light, shine into our dark and erring minds; dispel the shades of ignorance and sin; cause the day-spring from on high to visit us, and the sun of righteousness to rise in our hearts.

God of the Sabbath, send an answer of mercy to the prayers which have been offered to thee this day, according to thy word. May the worship and instruction of thy house have a powerful effect in winning souls to Christ. O may they impart to them a taste for devotion, while they refine their affections, quicken their sympathies and elevate their pursuits. Let none of us be strangers to the power of godliness, while familiar

with its forms. O suffer us not to abuse the means of grace by resting in them, but may we remember that they are given to create within us a new heart, and to form within us the spirit of Christ. We pray that devotion with us may not be the employment of an hour or a day only, but our habitual temper and our chief delight. *

Universal Parent, our fervent prayer to thee is, that every needful blessing may flow to our relatives and friends; that our enemies may be reconciled to us in love; that all support and consolation may be given to the sick and disconsolate, the poor and the tempted, the widow and the fatherless; that peace and righteousness may exalt our country; that the grace of the gospel may diffuse knowledge and liberty, devotion and hope through the earth; that thy whole creation may be filled with unalloyed good; and that to the imperfect and interrupted happiness of the present state, may succeed an eternal day of unclouded joy, when every heart and every mouth shall unite in ascribing glory and honor, dominion and power to him, who sitteth on the throne forever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

Eternal God, our Creator, Witness and Judge, we would adore thee as infinitely wise and good, gracious and powerful; and we would have thee on every side to direct and sanctify, to strengthen and console us. After the day sacred to devotion, we would enter upon a new term of duty with fresh interest in the great objects of life. Encompassed by the same care which guarded us by night, we go forth to the employments of the day. Our trust is in thee. May the lessons of the Sabbath guide our conduct through the week. Enable us to meet the responsibilities and perform the labors of our various stations under a deep sense of religious obligation; and may we be in thy fear all the day long.

O God, suffer us not to fail in our social duties. We desire to bring the spirit of Christ to their performance; and may we make all our days religious ones, by being punctual in our engagements, true in our words, faithful in our trusts, and exemplary in our conduct. May ours be that kindness of manner and that prudence of speech, that serenity of mind and that steadiness of purpose, which belong to thy devoted children. If we should be tempted this day by the prospect of unrighteous gain or the allurements of sinful pleasure, *grant us* the understanding and the

resolution to turn from them, and let integrity and uprightness preserve us. Shunning sloth and unfaithfulness, may every day witness the discharge of incumbent duty; and do thou prosper with thy help that labor, which, without thy help, must be ineffectual.

Most of all we pray, that the duties of this life may fit us for the next. O let us not mind earthly things as if we had chosen the world for our portion; but may our affections be placed on a better inheritance, on treasures which are laid up in heaven. *

Hear us, righteous God, in his name who gave himself for us, through whom to thee be glory forever. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

Ever living and ever blessed Lord our God, at the close of another day in which we have experienced thy care and goodness, we assemble together to adore and praise thee as our heavenly Father, the founder and preserver of families. Each day as it passes and each morning as it returns, testify to thy bounty that feeds, and to thy providence that guards us. But thou hast not limited thy favors to our temporal support. Thou hast given us a religion, which hallows all our

virtuous affections, and assures us of their continuance in the eternal world. May each one of us love his neighbor as himself; and as thou art love, may this grace reign supreme within us, that we may be perfect as thou art perfect. To this end, we pray for strength to reform whatever is amiss in our tempers and characters. O God, let no impure thoughts, unlawful designs, or corrupting principles rest within our souls. Free our hearts from envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness. May we never let the sun go down upon our wrath; but may we always go to our nightly rest in peace, contentment and charity, having consciences void of offence towards thee and towards man. Help us to imbibe the spirit, to adopt the principles, and to copy the example of our blessed Saviour.

— Father of all, we extend our wishes beyond the circle of this family, earnestly beseeching thee to look kindly down upon the abodes of men, and make them the abodes of health, virtue, and prosperity. While we bless thee for every favor shown to us and to our family, to our kindred and our country, we pray for the heathen, that they may receive by Christianity the adoption of sons. Source of all light and truth, who didst send Jesus Christ into the world, that the world through him might be saved, grant, we entreat thee, that the light of his doctrine and life may soon shine into their hearts, dispel the darkness

of ignorance and error, and guide them safely to heaven and thee. *

Our great Preserver; with sentiments of religious gratitude for the many tokens of thy past care, we now implore thy watchful providence during the hours of the coming night. Let no dangers approach our beds, nor pains disturb our rest; but may the morning find us prepared for the duties of the day; and to thee, O Lord, be praise and homage through Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

Father of mercies and God of all grace, the blessings of another morning call us to thine altar, and we are witnesses that thou art kind to the evil and unthankful. We now come to ask strength from thee, who alone canst impart it; and protection from thee, who alone canst save; and assistance from thee, who alone canst help; and mercy from thee, who alone canst forgive. What shall we render unto thee for all thy benefits? alas! what have we rendered? Though thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, we have sinned against thee. When we review our past lives, and compare our conduct with the requisitions of thy gospel, we find ample reason for humiliation. Searcher of hearts, we

lament that our piety is not more habitual, that our benevolence is not more extensive, and that we are so deficient in the regulation of our thoughts, passions, and words. We have permitted temptation to renew its strength; and we are not worthy to be called thy children. We justly deserve thy frowns. But knowing that we cannot endure thine indignation, we fly to that rich mercy held out in a Redeemer, and, all offending as we are, entreat thee to make us truly penitent that we may be forgiven. O may the fetters of sin be broken, and we be visited by the liberty wherewith Christ makes his people free. O God, wherein we have done what thy wisdom has forbidden, or left undone what thy love has enjoined, help us, we beseech thee, in future to maintain a fixed aversion to every unlawful course. If we have blindly preferred temporal gratifications to eternal joys, and have built our house upon the sand, may we be savingly convinced of our folly; and choosing thee for our portion, may we build on that foundation which time can never shake, and which eternity will only strengthen. May we be persuaded, O God, that till we know thee, we know nothing aright; that without thee we have nothing of any worth; and in wandering from thee we leave all that is truly good. *

Almighty Father, we would now go forth to the duties of this day with a new guard upon our lips, and with new courage in our hearts. Do

thou aid, and own, and sanctify us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

God of the morning and of the evening, who makest their outgoings to rejoice; we adore thee as the highest and holiest of Beings, the true and living God; God in heaven above and in the earth beneath. Thou art ever with us, upholding, sanctifying, and blessing us; yet who by searching can find out God? Thyself invisible, all things are done by thee. With laborious efforts we strive to imagine thy being. Our thoughts range through the wonders of creation in attempting to conceive of thy greatness. Thou hast given to the stars their light, to the deep its waters, to the earth its plants, to nature its richness, and to thy creature man, health, reason, and virtue. We ascend to the heavens above, and fathom the depths below, but we cannot find out the Almighty unto perfection.

Great Source of life, light and happiness; to such a Being we would have the morning and evening witness our devout consecration. We would make thee our refuge and portion, our confidence and joy. On thee our hearts would rest, and from thee our hopes would spring. As our

Creator we would revere thee, as our Sovereign we would serve thee, as our Father we would love thee, and as our Judge we would remember we are to meet thee. O God, we pray for entire devotedness to thee. May we submit all our desires to thy will, all our actions to thy laws, and all our concerns to thy disposal. Keep us from degrading the nature thou hast given us. Let us not fall from thy favor by abusing our privileges, or perverting our powers. Do thou hold us as in the hollow of thy hand. Guide us by thy counsel, defend us by thy might, purify us by thy spirit, and make us happy in thy love. *

Holy Watchman of thy people, whether we wake or sleep we are still with thee. Do thou shield us from danger in the approaching night; and when our days and nights on earth shall close, grant that we may behold each other in the light of eternal day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

We thank thee, Almighty God, for thy guardian care during the hours of another night; and may the opening of this new day remind us of Jesus Christ, who came to dispel the darkness of ignorance, and to teach us to walk as children of

the light. We would receive him as the sun of righteousness, as that true light which lighteth every man who cometh into the world. As we, who were afar off, are brought nigh by the blood of Christ, we now come in that new and living way which thou hast appointed.

Bountiful Giver of all spiritual good, what shall we render thee for thy mercies? How great the discoveries, how suitable the doctrines, how encouraging the promises, how urgent the invitations of the gospel of peace! How should we rejoice, that they, who are otherwise lost, are here presented with a free, full, and everlasting salvation. The weak find help laid on one who is mighty; the poor behold the unsearchable riches of Christ, and the ignorant find in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. More and more would we thank thee for the gift of our blessed Saviour. Him may we receive as the way, the truth and the life; him may we own, honor and imitate. We thank thee that he was born to bear witness to thy truth; and when he was delivered up for our offences, we rejoice that he was raised again for our justification, and became the first fruits of them that slept. While we exult in all the blessings which have flowed from his life and his teachings, may we not forget the crown of thorns or the cross of suffering. Convince us, O God, that he can be no Saviour to us, unless we love him and serve him, unless we tread in his steps,

are imbued with his spirit and devoted to his cause. O grant that the same mind may be in us which was in him. May the good-will he exercised become active in our affections, and the peace he left abide in our lives.

God of grace, give prosperity to all the churches of thy Son. May their pastors be holy and faithful, and may their members walk in love. Extend the triumphs of thy word through heathen lands; and let pure christianity go forth in its simplicity and power to the healing of the nations, so that the world shall be filled with thy glory, and all tribes and tongues unite in ascribing dominion and praise to thee, the Father, through Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Supremely great and infinitely glorious Lord our God, we would adore thee as a Being whom no mortal eye hath seen or can see. O let it please thee to give us worthy apprehensions of thine attributes, agency, and will. Assured as we are, that no distance of place can remove us from thy presence, no length of time erase us from thy memory, and no clouds of darkness veil us from thy view, may these convictions elevate our minds, direct our energies and sanctify our lives.

Having united this day to partake of thy boun ty, we now unite to render thee our thanks. Blessed be God, who loadeth us with his benefits and giveth us all things richly to enjoy. Thou hast admitted us to the privileges of children, and while we live we would celebrate thy praise.

God of wisdom, teach us the knowledge of ourselves. May we keep our hearts with all diligence, and amidst the trials of life maintain the habit of self government. In prosperity may we be humble, temperate and charitable, remembering that we are men; in adversity may we be patient, and wholly resigned to thy unerring providence. Save us, merciful Parent, from anger and malice, from pride and presumption, from the fatal influence of seductive examples. Give us prudence to direct our affairs, resolution to preserve our innocence, and wisdom to retain our integrity. Above all, we pray thee to excite in us the spirit of true religion. O excite an ardent zeal for thy glory, for the spread of truth and for the practice of righteousness. May every thing within us and without us glorify thee. May our affections become so pious, that their habitual state shall be one continued prayer; and our lives so holy, that they shall be an unbroken offering of praise. Prepare us for the scenes we are to meet in life; and when we shall have answered the purposes of thy wisdom here, grant us admission to that world, where the storms of earth

reach not, and the shades of evening gather not; where we shall see thee without obscurity, know thee without imperfection, and love thee without end. * Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

Almighty God, who art unchangeable in thy nature, universal in thy presence, and uncontrollable in thy dominion; we would adore thee as the eternal Fountain of life and truth and salvation. Accept our thanks for having preserved us through another night, and given us another day. We bless thee for the comforts and improvements of social and civil life to which we are born; and more especially we bless thee for calling us from the darkness of superstition to that pure and holy religion, which guides our feet in the paths of peace and pleasantness here, while it leads to glory and immortality hereafter.

— But, O Father, thy bounties have not secured our obedience. We have sinned against thee. We have wasted time. We have abused opportunity. We fear that we have lightly esteemed the rock of our salvation. Our only hope is in thy compassion. God of mercy, give us true repentance. Not weighing our unworthiness, pardon our iniquity, and justify us freely by

thy grace through the redemption there is in Christ Jesus.

O Lord, for the future we desire to set thee always before us, and to live as passengers who are going through a world of danger to meet their Judge. For aid and guidance we fly to thee, and may we feel ourselves supported, beyond the mere power of nature, by a higher power than nature knows. If sorrow and disappointment are to be our portion, and we are called to travel through the wilderness of human life, do thou, O God, be with us. From the flinty rock do thou give us water; in the dew of evening give us bread, and may thy cloud of mercy overshadow us by day and thy pillar of fire guide us by night, till thou shalt conduct us safely to our promised heaven. O grant our prayer, that we may become wiser and better by all we suffer and all we enjoy. With christian devotedness may we take up our cross and follow our Master; and when our spirits would faint, may we look to Jesus, who went up to his Father's throne by the steps of suffering.

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In his name we offer our morning prayer, ascribing to thee all praise forever. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

Father of all the families on earth, the close of another day calls us to this altar. We would begin and end every thing with thee. Having enjoyed the blessings and finished the business of the day, we unite, as a family, to acknowledge thy fatherly goodness. We would adore and thank that friendly providence, which has watched over our happiness as if we were the only objects of its care. To thee, heavenly Protector, we desire at this time to renew the surrender of ourselves. May the love and fear of thee dwell in our hearts and rule in our house.

But we limit not our petitions to ourselves. God of the spirits of all flesh, hear our intercessions for all other families. As our fellow men are beloved and cherished by thee, may they be so by us. Enable us to lighten their burdens, to remove from their path the stone of stumbling, to befriend their good undertakings, and to unite them more closely in the bonds of peace.

— O God, reform the sad errors of the christian world. Let not thy moral laws be rendered ineffectual by false notions of religion, nor the progress of the gospel be obstructed by the wicked lives of those who profess it. Put an end to all usurpation over the judgments and consciences of mankind; and give us the gospel charity to-

wards all who honestly differ from us in opinion. Let it please thee to bless the means of education, and to strengthen those in every land, who would extend the arts and sciences, civil liberty and pure religion. Send forth thy light and truth through the world; and may christian temples be raised to thee among the heathen, and every region witness the offering of intelligent and pious homage. Smile, we pray thee, upon our country, and give to our rulers wisdom to discern what is right, and integrity to pursue it.

O thou who hast an eye to pity and an arm to save, give us a tender sympathy with those who are in sorrow and in pain; and may the interruption of their temporal enjoyments be richly compensated by their spiritual improvement. We would remember the house of penury, the chamber of sickness, and the heart of affliction, beseeching thee to comfort those who mourn, to supply the wants of the needy, and to plead the cause of the orphan, the widow and the friendless. Be thou the guide of the young, the support of the aged, and to all thy children that which their various conditions require.

God of the night, keep us while we sleep, and may the morning find us refreshed for serving thee more acceptably. We offer our prayer as the disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

High and holy One, Maker of heaven and earth; all nature is open to thy view, all futurity is present to thy mind. Thou visitest the humble and contrite soul. We would come, in the spirit of penitence and of faith, to seek for mercy, because we have sinned; and to implore the influence of thy spirit, because in thee is our hope.

All our blessings have flowed from thee, the fountain of good. From thee came our being, the structure of our bodies, and the inspiration of our minds. From thee come health and strength, food and raiment, the friendships and comforts of life. Above all, from thee come the mercies of the christian covenant. With admiration and grateful joy we reflect, that from the counsels of thy love, we are, in Jesus Christ, enlightened by the wisdom he taught, made partakers of the righteousness and grace of which he is the minister, sanctified by his truth, and become heirs of eternal redemption. While we view him as the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, whose mission, doctrines, example and death have brought in everlasting redemption for sinners, we fervently pray, that he may be revealed in us, that Christ Jesus may be formed in us, that we may partake of his spirit, and be created in his likeness. Penetrate our souls with such

a lively sense of thy spiritual gifts as shall engage our whole hearts to love and reverence thy holy name. May the Saviour be precious to each one of us. From his lips may we learn thy will, and from his life learn how to conform to it.

Holy God, if we shall this day be tempted to wander from thy paths, to offend against thy righteous law, and to follow the devices and desires of our own hearts, do thou alarm us by the rebukes of conscience, and turn our eyes to him who was faithful unto death, and who died to redeem us from the power of an evil world. *

In the name of that blessed Saviour, who loved us and gave himself for us, we offer our morning prayer, rendering to thee glory everlasting. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

Our great Creator, we bless thee for calling us into life, and forming us for knowledge, virtue and happiness. Thou hast made us social beings, and bound us together in a common condition and a common hope. As a worshipping family we have now entered our closet to offer to thee our evening sacrifice. We would regard this as the place of our prayer, and the altar of our oblations. Here let thy mercy receive us, thy gospel invite us, thine inspirations move us, and thy discipline

reform us. Here may we bewail our guilt, pour out our souls, receive thy blessing, participate in thy love, and look forward to thy rest. May every avenue, through which worldly cares and pleasures enter the mind, be now closed, and our offering be that of pious, humble hearts.

Aid us, holy Father, in the duty of self examination. With the candle of the Lord may we enter the inmost recesses of our souls, and bring forth every defilement therein concealed. May we see ourselves as thou seest us; and do thou help us to watch the latent springs of action that we may know the motives that move us. Enable us rightly to estimate the tyranny of ungoverned passion, the power of party prejudice, and the force of prevalent custom. If the flatteries of the world have seduced, or its frowns terrified us; if we have looked with envy at what others possess, and allowed our lips to speak when there was no answer from the heart; if the habit of unfaithfulness and the sin of hypocrisy cleave to us, we fervently pray, O Searcher of hearts, that we may know ourselves, that we may see the wretchedness and ruin to which our besetting sins must lead us; and before the evil days come, may we purify ourselves even as thou art pure. Witness and Judge of men, be not strict to mark iniquity, but judge us in tender compassion, and enable us hereafter to be strong in the Lord, steadfast and immovable, watching unto prayer.

— Confirm within us every good principle. May the simplicity of Christ abide in our souls, and his law of kindness dwell upon our lips. Delighting in meekness, equity and long suffering, may we glorify thee, our God, by serving our generation according to thy will. *

Heavenly Protector, with hearts confiding in thy care we would retire to rest; and may the morning as it renews thy loving kindness, renew the tribute of our praise. Hear us and accept us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

O come let us worship and fall down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. With rejoicing hearts we would join the praises of saints and angels, and bear our part in the sacred homage.

God of the whole earth, while we thank thee for thy goodness to us, we would remember our connexion with thy great family. May the religion of thy Son rule and sanctify the world. May wars and fightings cease among men, and the arts of peace be multiplied. Smile, we beseech thee, on our native land. May our people lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and

honesty. Preserve to us our civil and religious rights. Protect us from treachery within and from violence without. Give to us healthy and fruitful seasons, and prosper our agriculture, commerce and manufactures.

— O thou who art the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth, behold and bless with thine abundant favor the head of this nation, and all those who rule over us. Replenish them with the grace of thy holy spirit, so that they may always incline to thy will and walk in thy way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts, so that they shall rule in thy fear and effectually advance learning, liberty and truth.

Creator and Preserver of mankind, we beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men, that thou wouldst impress on their hearts the great law of christian charity. More especially we pray for thy holy church universal, that it may be so guided and governed by thee, that all, who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life. *

O God, may the world be filled with thy love; and may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O thou who remainest the same through the succession of days and weeks, of months and years: through all the revolutions of time, thou, O God, art the same watchful providence and paternal mercy. All things proceed from thee, and thy presence is the life of the world. In thy hand our breath is, and with thee is the number of our months.

Parent of good, at the close of another day and another week, we would come to return our heartfelt thanks for the mercies which have crowned this period, and to implore their continuance. While many, having fallen around us, have passed into eternity, we are left the spared monuments of thy sparing favor.

— Unfailing source of life and goodness, as another week has made its irreversible record concerning us, and we are so much nearer to our graves, may we carefully examine our hearts, so as to make the lessons of experience our guide in the time to come. May the speed of our weeks forcibly teach us the value of time, knowing, that all we yet hope to accomplish must be done in the few days of the uncertain future. Quicken our consciences, sanctify our souls; and so teach us to number our days that we may better apply the rest to religious wisdom.

If, in the past week, we have been unjust in our dealings, uncharitable in our judgments or unkind in our dispositions, convince us, O God, of our folly and our sin, and lead us to true repentance. We beseech thee to bend our wills more perfectly to thine, and let none of those things, which have formerly subdued us, any longer prove a snare. O thou who givest strength to the weak and power to the helpless, prepare us for the future. Called to encounter the enemies of our virtue, may we put on the whole armour of God, and through the journey of life have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. As a family may we know, from happy experience, how pleasant it is to dwell together in unity. May sympathy reign in our hearts, and love be the inmate of our dwelling. Let not prosperity corrupt, nor adversity harden us; but give us contentment for ourselves and benevolence for others. Especially we pray for the spirit of Jesus, which is the spirit of heaven. Under the guidance of his word, and the aids of thy providence, do thou build us up a spiritual house, and make us heirs together of the grace of life.

Creator and Preserver, keep us in safety through the night that is coming. May the refreshment of sleep prepare us to enter on the day sacred to devotion; and when our days and weeks on earth shall be closing, and the night of death shall come, may we then fall asleep in

Jesus, in hope of that morning of the resurrection, when we may be admitted to nobler services in thy heavenly temple. Amen.

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, how happy should we feel that we can know and worship thee as the disciples of thy Son. How thankful should we be, that we are invited to bow down before thee in our house for thy blessing on our family; and to meet in thine earthly courts to taste thy mercy and forgiveness there. We now come in the name of our great Mediator, and on this morning, consecrated to the memory of his resurrection, we would extol and praise thee. We would welcome the day which affords rest from bodily fatigue and worldly anxiety; the day which calls us to contemplate thee as our Father and Benefactor, to think of Jesus as our Teacher and Example, and to join our fellow Christians in the services of religion. O may the high and holy purposes of the Sabbath be fully answered in us. May we, by reading, meditation

and prayer, become more wise, more holy and more devout. By our conversation and deportment may we recommend religion to the young, and promote the cause of cheerful piety.

— O thou from whom is the preparation of heart, prepare us for thy house. Gladly would we embrace the opportunity, with which we are favored, of going up to the place where thy name is adored, and where pardon and salvation are proclaimed through a Redeemer. May our hearts be moved with ardent devotion, with fervent gratitude and with christian friendship, when we join our fellow creatures in offering up the acknowledgements of homage and the sacrifice of prayer to thee, in whom are all our springs of life and happiness. May our minds be open to receive thy truth, and our hearts ready to feel it; and may we bless the hand which is reached forth to save us. O that our hearts may be so touched with the spirit of Christ, that we shall receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which is able to save our souls.

Shed the dews of thy heavenly grace on all worshiping assemblies. May they so hear that their souls shall live. May they confess their sins with unfeigned sorrow and steady purposes of amendment; may they pray to thee with the fervor and sincerity of Jesus; may their intercessions be accompanied with charity to all men; may no vain thoughts distract their minds, and no unwor-

thy object withdraw their affections; but may they so worship thee, that the influences of the Sabbath may be found in their lives.

Smile upon thy faithful ministers of every denomination. Give them, we beseech thee, a large measure of the spirit of thy Son, the spirit of wisdom and fortitude, the spirit of industry and prudence, the spirit of charity and devotion. Replenish them with an enlightened zeal for the cause of gospel truth and christian liberty; and while they shine as lights in the world, may they be exemplary in their families, in their private walk, and in the performance of every christian office.

O God, prosper judicious efforts for the diffusion of the gospel. May pure and undefiled religion go forth in its power to the healing of the nations, and the world be filled with thy glory. *

Holy Father, we again ask thy presence and blessing for this day; and knowing that it may be the last Sabbath we shall see on earth, may we be able, at its close, to review it with satisfaction, and to feel that it has been as one of the days of heaven to our souls. Hear us through him, who is the way, the truth and the life, while we ascribe to thee all praise forever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Father of mercies; at the close of the Sabbath we draw nigh to thee in the duties of worship, believing that our prayers are heard with acceptance, whether they are poured out before thee in secret, or in the family circle, or in the public assembly.

— We thank thee for what our eyes have seen and our ears have heard this day. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! Thou lovest the gates of Zion. Blessed are they who dwell in thy courts, who wait upon thee with humility and trust. Strength and beauty are in thy sanctuary: there the power of truth is felt, and there the beauties of holiness are shown. In the assembly of pious worshipers we have joined in thy praise. We would rejoice for every one who has this day turned from his evil ways; for every one who has been comforted under affliction, and for every one who has advanced in faith and holiness. May grace, mercy and peace rest on all who have bowed before thy throne. May we be of the number of those who hear the word and keep it. O grant, that the acts of social devotion, in which we have engaged, may strengthen our love of one another, and prepare us for uniting with the church above in the nobler worship of thy heavenly temple.

Thou pure and perfect Spirit, forgive any distraction of mind or coldness of affection which may have attended the discharge of our religious duties. While we thank thee for the means and opportunities afforded us for strengthening our attachment to thy Son, we fervently pray thee to make us more able to comprehend the length and breadth and depth of his love for us. O may he prove the Saviour of our souls; and let it not be said of us, that he came to us and we received him not. May all the means of grace be sanctified to us. Do thou direct our examination of the gospel; let our souls kindle over the sacred page, and our hearts burn within us as we talk with Jesus. Forbid that we should rest in the outward acts of religion; but may our social worship cement our hearts and bless our lives; may it lead us to live with each other as those who worship together; may it make the precepts of the gospel the laws of this house, and the rules of our conduct. Thus may the devotion of the Sabbath diffuse joy through our dwelling on every succeeding day, and be followed by mutual affection through the week. And now in the presence of each other, and before thee, our Witness and Judge, we do form the most serious purpose, to guard against all vicious appetites and passions, to behave with fidelity, prudence and kindness, to be diligent in the business of our several stations, to perform each social office with

conscientious care. O let us not be satisfied with present attainments, but may we grow in grace, abound still more in the work of the Lord, press forward towards the mark of our high calling, and go on to perfection.

— O thou who art the Instructer of the ignorant, let thy power ever accompany the voice of thy faithful ministers. Whatever seeds of truth may have fallen from their hands this day, do thou cause them to take deep root, and so to spring up, that they shall bear abundantly the fruits of righteousness. Succeed the endeavors of all who would extend the knowledge of the gospel. May the word of salvation be cordially embraced and the laws of righteousness be universally obeyed, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. *

God of the night, another Sabbath is closing to return no more. When we lie down may we meditate on what we have heard this day, and resolve, if our lives are spared, to live them by faith in thy Son. Through him we present our requests, and render to thee our homage and our thanks. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

O thou who art good and doest good continually, thou hast made us to sleep in safety and awake in peace. May we go forth with new vigor to the returning employments of active life, rejoicing in the gospel as the rule of our conduct. From Jesus may we learn to perform our duties with diligence and fidelity, maintaining consciences void of offence towards thee and man. From him may we learn to resist temptation and overcome the world; and like him may we exhibit that wisdom, which is from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle and full of good fruits.

O God, suffer us not to fail in our duty to ourselves. May we watch the strong emotions of our hearts with holy care, give to every passion its right direction, maintain the dominion of reason and religious principle, guard the purity and tranquillity of our minds, observe temperance and self command in each lawful indulgence, and act up to the dignity and hopes of rational and immortal beings. As sojourners on earth, we ask from thee those supplies of temporal good which will most promote our eternal welfare. Defend us from danger. Shield us from distress. Prosper our virtuous undertakings, and enable us to glorify thee by our service to thy creatures. Prepare us for what we are to meet; and whatever shall be

our condition, may the purposes of thy wisdom be answered in us. While our thoughts are busied with temporal concerns, may we reserve our affections for what is pure, holy and everlasting. Thus may we live for that eternal world to which we shall soon go, and from which we can never return; and may a firm trust in thee and a lively faith in Jesus Christ carry us through every trial, and open before us thy heavenly rest. *

We offer our prayer in the name of thy Son, giving honor to thee forever. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

It is good to give thanks unto thee, O Most High, to show forth thy loving kindness in the morning and thy faithfulness every night. Let our prayer be set forth before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.

While we rejoice in thy government, thy bounty and thy care, we must mourn that we have not had that fear which keepeth from evil. While we bless thee for thy patience with us, notwithstanding our many and great provocations, we must acknowledge our continued violations of duty. O grant that we may wholly forsake the sins we lament. Restore us to thyself, and make us happy in thy love.

Gracious Giver of every good, we thank thee for the safety of the day past. Another step is taken on the journey of life; and as our days speed their flight, may we number them so as to apply our hearts to religious wisdom. As our day is, so may our strength be. Enable us to meet the adversities of this probationary state with prepared minds, with calmness, fortitude and trust. May we take sober views of life and its duties; estimate well the great objects of existence, and being faithful unto death, may we receive at last the crown of life.

— Shed thy rich blessing, O Lord, upon our relatives and friends. Reward all who have done us good, and pardon those who have done us evil. We pray for the destitute, and do thou supply their wants; and for those in anxiety, and do thou be to them far better than their fears. Regard with favor the afflicted; may thy wisdom be their direction, thy power their support, and thy goodness their confidence. *

Great Lord of life; as the darkness of night again covers the earth, again we would rely on thy fatherly protection. May refreshing sleep prepare us for the duties of the morrow, and may all our days be devoted to thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

God of the morning, who art clothed with light as with a garment; the opening day would lead us to thee, who dwellest in light which no man can approach. Though thou art far above our most exalted conceptions, and incapable of receiving any accession to thy glory by the service of men or angels, yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast revealed thyself as a God hearing prayer, and hast promised, if we ask aright, to fit us for the needed blessings. With these conditions of acceptance, we desire at this time with true piety and christian faith to unite in praise and supplication.

We thank thee for thy varied gifts. We thank thee for the faculties of sight, hearing and speech; and for all the improvements we have derived from reading, conversation and experience. We thank thee for our powers of motion and our ability to labor; and for all the fruits of industry and foresight. We thank thee for food, for raiment, and for all the pleasures of friendship and the comforts of home. We thank thee for our enjoyment of civil and religious liberty; and for all the blessings of general education and the prevalence of christian truth. *

O God, let not our hearts be insensible to thy rich provisions for our welfare. As long as we

live may we utter the memory of thy great goodness, and praise thy holy name; and when thou shalt call us hence, may we be admitted to that state, where we shall be all eye to see, all ear to hear, all heart to feel, and all soul to love and serve and enjoy thee forever. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

Omniscient God, who searchest the heart, we would bow before thy throne in the all-prevailing name of our Advocate and Intercessor. Help us to bring the undivided homage of our hearts.

Knowing our exposures and our weakness, we would now seek thy strength to help our infirmities. Spare thy people who are penitent; and have compassion on the works of thy hand. Deliver us, we entreat thee, from all evil; from the dangerous assaults of temptation; from lusts which war against the soul; from all the deceitful allurements of this world; from thy just displeasure, and from future condemnation. O deliver us, we beseech thee, from all blindness of mind, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word and commandment. Deliver us from pride, vainglory and hypocrisy; from envy and hatred; from malice and cruelty, and all uncharitableness. In the time of our prosperity, in the time of our

adversity, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, gracious God, deliver us.

Give us now, we pray thee, to grow in grace, to hear thy word with meekness, to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the spirit. Preserve us, if it be thy will, from dangers; from hurtful lightnings and tempests; from plague, pestilence and famine; from war and wasting calamities. Give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so that in due time we may enjoy them. *

Almighty God, another day has closed upon us forever. Thou hast been our shield and our comforter. Continue to us thy watchful care; and to thee whom we own, to thee whom we reverence, to thee whom we would serve, be glory and dominion forever. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER.

O Lord our God, holy and merciful; as we know not whether this new day shall bring us grief or peace, we would fly to that providence which seeth the end from the beginning. May we go forth to our duties aided by thy power; and whatever we are to enjoy or suffer this day, may we be faithful to thee and to ourselves, and be able to review it with gratitude and contentment.

O God, we thank thee for the mutual dependence and common joys of social life. In the arms of our prayer we would bring before thee the cause of our friends, and the happiness of the world. Let it please thee to have mercy upon all men; and to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived. Guide and bless all thy sincere worshipers in the right way, that embracing and holding fast the doctrine of eternal life, they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. May it please thee to lead all Christians to a right understanding of their holy religion, so that thy church may be governed according to the simplicity of the gospel. Restrain every kind and degree of persecution, spiritual tyranny and oppression; and may all show themselves disciples of Christ by loving one another. May unity, peace and concord reign through the world, and mankind enjoy the rich blessings of virtue, liberty and peace. O God, with christian sympathy we pray thee to succor, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, or tribulation. Defend all who travel by land or water. Provide for the fatherless and the widow. Support the aged; and show pity to all prisoners and captives. Strengthen those who stand, raise up those who fall, and comfort the feeble minded.

Heavenly Father, bless our friends, reward our *benefactors*, forgive our enemies, have compassion

upon all men. Be thou our guide and defence through all the changes of time and nature, and at last receive us to thyself in glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord, our eyes look up to thee whence cometh our help. Another evening calls us to thine altar; and as another day is closing upon us in mercy, may it witness our cheerful tribute of thanks to our great Preserver. O thou to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid, may the fact of thy continual presence be deeply impressed on our minds. Wherever we are and however occupied, may we remember that thou art with us; that no fault which we commit will be overlooked, no virtue we exercise be unnoticed, and no prayers we utter be unheard by thee.

Merciful God, our prayer to thee is, that we may be followers of thee, as dear children. May our tempers therefore be more serene, compassionate, and charitable. We desire to be as Jesus was, holy, harmless, and undefiled. May our passions, subdued by a reverence for thy authority, be so regulated as to answer the purposes of their bestowment. May our personal virtues be

strengthened and our social affections extended. O grant that our love of thee may become the ruling motive of our hearts, and the love of Christ lead us to keep his commandments; and may we never forget, that the best evidence of this love is good will and usefulness to thy creatures. As no man liveth to himself, may it be our aim to communicate, and thereby to secure happiness; and thus influenced by the spirit of humanity, may we never cause an unnecessary pang to any human being. Fashion us, thou pure and perfect Spirit, to such a resemblance of thyself, that all our views, purposes and actions may centre in what thou requirest.

— Father of all, give thine aid to parents, and may they go before their children in the path of innocence, holiness and sobriety; and may children obey their parents in the Lord, and become their joy and strength. Bless the means of education and the instructers of youth. Redeem man from slavery, superstition and crime; send light, liberty and peace over the earth, and let the sun of righteousness arise upon all nations, with healing in his beams. *

Almighty God, we rely for safety on thee, to whom the night shineth as the day. Grant us that quiet repose without which we cannot be refreshed, and thy protection without which we cannot be secure; and to thy great name be given praise forever. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

God of our lives, from thee we receive all that makes the day happy, or the night peaceful. As disciples of Christ, we would come before thee now with composed minds, with deep contrition and with fervent piety. Having true godly sorrow for sin, do thou justify us freely of thy grace through the redemption there is in Christ Jesus. We confess our transgressions: have mercy upon us. We are weary: give us rest. We are ignorant: make us wise to salvation. We are helpless: let thy strength be made perfect in our weakness.

— Righteous Father, henceforth permit no inordinate desires to prevail upon us to break through the sacred boundaries of wisdom, purity and religion. Make our faith something more than a cold assent of the understanding. Let Christianity penetrate our inmost souls, warm and quicken our best affections, elevate us above the world, and make us live for immortality.

— Great Parent of all, bless our churches, and those who minister in holy things. Preserve among Christians the sacred bond of unity. Among less important differences, may all discern the supreme value of holiness, charity and devotion.

God of compassion, deliver those who are af-

flicted, whether in mind, body, or estate. Pity those who labor under the pressures of poverty; and dispose them to kindness who are able to afford relief. Succor the tempted. Defend the oppressed. Support those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Comfort the sorrowful. Speak peace to the anxious mind. Spare desirable and useful lives. Prepare such as are near death for an exchange of worlds. Be thou the tender Guardian of the destitute; the Father of the fatherless, and the widow's God. *

Let it please thee to send an answer of mercy to these our supplications, made in the name of our great Mediator and Advocate, in whose words we further call on thee; Our Father, &c.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

God of goodness and of power, without whose support we cannot exist, and without whose blessing we cannot be happy; thou seest the ruling motive and searchest the heart. We would worship thee now, and at all times, in spirit and in truth. We look to thee for pardoning mercy, for spiritual aid, for final acceptance and eternal life. Source of our blessings and our hopes, we depend on thee for the continuance of life, both in this world and the next. We desire to submit

our ways to thy guidance, and our interests here and hereafter to thy disposal. To thee we would piously look for safety amid unforeseen exposures, for the means of subsistence, for daily bread, for necessary raiment, for the vigor of health, for fruitful seasons, and for all the supports and comforts of life. On thee we depend for social blessings, for the tear of sympathy and the hand of affection, for religious privileges, for divine instruction, and for the means of holiness. Bountiful God, if we speak of thy mercies, they are more than can be numbered. We will give thanks so long as we live; every day will we bless thee, and praise thy name forever.

— Parent of all, thou hast formed us, not for ourselves alone, but to be ministers of good to those around us. Teach us to imitate, according to the measure of our nature, thy free and perfect goodness. Ever delighting in charity, meekness and longsuffering, may we seek the real welfare of thy family; and thus advancing in our likeness to thee, the great Fountain of mercies, may we be trained up to dwell with thee under the more effectual discipline of that kingdom, where truth, love and piety shall reign forever.

Preserve the lives and increase the happiness of our neighbors, relatives and friends. Bless the hoary head; and may the aged, as the time draws nigh when they must meet thee and give an account of their stewardship, have the testimo-

ny of a good conscience to sustain and comfort them. May those in the vigor of life remember, that to whom much is given of them will much be required. May the young employ their spring-time of existence in sowing the good seeds of industry, temperance, and virtue. O God, help them to lay the foundation of useful and happy lives, and do thou guide their inexperienced feet. *

O thou who hearest prayer, answer us in mercy through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

High and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, we would adore thee as possessed of every attribute which can claim the reverence and affection of rational beings. Thy power is directed by thy wisdom. Thy love has affixed a restoring efficacy to moral punishment. Thy justice is not severity. Thy mercy is always in exercise and endureth forever. Thy benevolence, wishing to exert itself, gave existence to the universe, and thou hast no object before the everlasting happiness of thy children.

Adored be thy name for the various interviews the world has had with thee its Maker. We thank thee for thy promise to Abraham, that in

him all the families of the earth should be blessed. We thank thee for the long succession of prophets, through whom thou didst pour increasing light on a benighted world. But, glory to thee in the highest, that in the fulness of time thou didst send forth thy Son, who, in the counsels of thy wisdom, was he who was to come, the Messiah, the last Prophet, the heavenly Teacher, the perfect Example, the all-sufficient Mediator. Glory be to thy name, that thou didst give thy spirit to him without measure, and fill him with thy wisdom, and clothe him with thy power, and didst so communicate to him thy will, that he appeared on earth the perfect and visible representative of thee, who art invisible. We thank thee, that by miracles, the most benevolent, he established his title to the Messiahship; that he disclosed thy whole character in its paternal benignity; unfolded the moral nature of man, placing it but a little lower than that of angels; marked out the duties which belong to us at every season; announced the terms of pardon and acceptance, and established by his resurrection the doctrine of immortality.

O God, grant to us this prayer, that the doctrines and examples, the motives and sanctions of Christianity, may take full possession of our hearts, and guide and purify and save our souls. And having been faithful unto death, may we hear from the Saviour the welcome invitation, Come,

ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. *

Do thou hear us in that name, which is above every name, while we render to thee everlasting praise. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

O thou on whom all eyes wait, all creatures depend, unchangeable God; in the morning it is our duty and privilege to commit ourselves unto thee, through all the circumstances of the day. At night it is our joy to repose ourselves in thy protection through the defenceless hours of sleep. At night and morning, awake or asleep, at home or abroad, thou art with us. When the night comes, thou hast made us to look for another morning and another day: O God, most urgently we implore, that we may look for the night of death, for the morning of a resurrection, and for the day of judgment. Help us to set a higher value on time; and knowing that the past is connected with the present, may we be sensible that the present is connected with all that is future. May every day, therefore, find us about our Father's business, doing with a fervent spirit *what thou* hast sent us here to accomplish; and

may each evening as it closes bring the cheering testimony of a good conscience, and the humble hope of thine approbation. As thou hast formed us in thine image, and made virtue to be our highest interest, we desire to use wisely this infancy of our being; and may it be our steadfast purpose and diligent endeavor, not to sully our high descent, nor to fall from our heavenly destination.

— O God, show us our sins; and convince us of the impossibility of sinning without punishment, and the infinite hazard of delaying repentance. Lead us back, where we have wandered; and, in the future, let no corrupt desire rise to cloud the serenity of our minds, or darken the path that leads to thee.

Bless us in our social relations. May parents give to their children seasonable instructions, and set before them good examples. Enable them so to direct their education, and so to regulate their choice of studies and employments in life, as to make their children most happy within themselves and most useful to society. And may children conduct with such wisdom and discretion, as shall make them the constant joy of their parents. *

Holy Father, grant that all of us, whatever our situations are, may live in thy fear and die in thy favor; and hereafter share thy bounty, and do thy will, and celebrate thy praise forever. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

Eternal, incomprehensible Mind, who, by thy boundless power, before time began, createdst innumerable worlds for thy glory, and unnumbered orders of beings for their happiness; which thy infinite goodness prompted thee to desire, and thy infinite wisdom enabled thee to know: we thy creatures sink into nothing before thy supreme majesty.

— We feel our weakness; we acknowledge our folly; we bewail our sins. Thee only we adore with awful veneration; thee we thank with fervent zeal; to thy power we humbly submit; of thy goodness we would devoutly implore protection, and on thy wisdom we firmly and cheerfully rely. We do but open our eyes, and we perceive thy divine existence; we do but exert our reason, and we discover thy divine attributes. But our eyes could not behold thy splendor, nor could our minds comprehend thy divine essence; we see thee only through thy stupendous and all-perfect works; we know thee only by that ray of sacred light which it has pleased thee to reveal through Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, if creatures too ignorant to conceive and too weak to pursue the means of their highest happiness, may, without presumption, express their wants to their Creator, we would

humbly supplicate thee to irradiate our minds with all useful truth, and instil into our hearts the spirit of general benevolence. Give understanding to the foolish; meekness to the proud; temperance to the dissolute; fortitude to the feeble-hearted; hope to the desponding; faith to the unbelieving; diligence to the slothful; patience to those who are in pain, and thy celestial aid to those in danger. O God, comfort the afflicted; relieve the distressed; supply the hungry with salutary food, and the thirsty with a plenteous stream. Impute not our doubts to indifference, nor our slowness of belief to hardness of heart; but be indulgent to our imperfect nature, and supply our imperfections by thy heavenly favor. O suffer not oppression to prevail over innocence, nor the might of the avenger over the weakness of the just. Whenever we address thee in our retirement from the cares of the world, if our prayers are unwise, pity us; if presumptuous, pardon us; if acceptable to thee, grant them, All-powerful God; and as with our living voice, and with our dying lips, we would express our submission to thy decrees, adore thy providence, and bless thy dispensations, so, in that future state to which we reverently hope thy goodness will raise us, grant that we may continue praising, admiring, venerating and worshiping thee more and more, through worlds without number and ages without end. * Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise thee. Thy church throughout the world doth acknowledge thee, the Father of an infinite majesty. We thy servants, though a small part of thy great family, would come in humble trust and with pure hearts, to join our praises and prayers with those of the spirits in thy presence, ascribing glory and honor, dominion and power to him who sitteth on the throne forever and ever. Thy inspiration has given us the understanding by which we know and love and worship thee; and we deem it our reasonable service to present to thee our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice.

— Eternal God, the changing seasons and revolving months bring convincing evidence of thy being, agency, and love. Thou art now crowning another day and another week with thy loving kindness. Thy mercies have been borne to us on the wings of every hour. Thou hast continued to us health and friends, food and raiment. To thee we owe the establishment of civil society, the institution of wise and salutary laws, the progress of useful knowledge, the advantages of

commercial intercourse, and all the blessings of social life. To thee we are indebted for the lessons and examples of the intelligent and good, for the benefits of a virtuous education, and for every opportunity of family worship. Above all, to thy unchangeable compassion we owe the offers of pardon, and the animating hope of immortality.

Unfailing Source of life and mercy; while with grateful hearts we thank thee for thy bounties and providence through another week, we must lament our transgressions. We have felt the effects of former carelessness, and deeply lament that our past sins yet exercise a power over our minds. If we have allowed prejudice to warp our judgments, or unkind feelings to rest in our hearts, we would truly deplore them. We would mourn over every act which has made us less useful, or others less happy. Spare thou those who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; and while the closing week proves how rapidly our lives are shortening, let it rouse us to new activity. O let us not defer to the uncertain future what should be done now. Relying on thee, we would, in the stillness of this hour and in the presence of each other, form the most serious and deliberate purpose to correct whatever has been wrong in our temper and conduct, and to live in future as the obedient disciples of Jesus Christ.

— Parent of good, we thank thee for our do-

mestic altar. As thou hast gathered the solitary in families, and cheered us by the ties of kindred and the comforts of home, we pray that we may be in truth a christian household. May we guard against ill-humor, and against every incident which would disturb the tranquillity of our dwelling, or lessen the love of our hearts. May we live together as they should, who wish to be united in thy heavenly family. *

Lord of life, hitherto hast thou helped us. As the close of another week calls us to self-examination, may it find us at peace with thee, with our own consciences, and with our fellow men. We ask thy protection through the coming night. Let not our beds be those of pain, nor our meditations those of sin; but when we sleep let our rest be refreshing, and when we wake let our meditations be of thee. Prepare us for the Sabbath and the sanctuary; and when our days and weeks on earth shall revolve no more, then admit us, O eternal One, to thy heavenly temple, to the everlasting mansions of love and devotion, of purity and bliss. Amen.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.*

BEFORE THE BAPTISM OF A CHILD.

Father of mercies; all souls are thine. We are about to dedicate this child to thee in baptism. From thee it was received; we would give it back to thee again in our prayer, beseeching thee to accept it. May it be wholly and forever thine. As the water to be used in its consecration is emblematic of the purity required in the christian life, do thou help its parents to perform faithfully their incumbent duty. May they inform *him* of the dignity of *his* nature; of the importance of reason, the light of God within *him*, by which *he* is to govern *himself*, and be made useful and happy. Assist them to enlarge *his* understanding, and to open *his* heart to the impressions of religion; that from *his* youth *he* may know the holy scriptures, and be a child of God. If *he* lives, may *he* live to thee; if soon called to die, may *he* die to thee; and in the world of spirits hereafter may *he* join *his* parents to rejoice with them in thy redeeming love. In the name of him, who took little children in his arms and blessed them, do thou hear and accept us.

* The words *his*, *him*, *he*, &c., printed in Italics, may be changed into *her*, *she*, &c. as the occasion may require.

FOR THE CHILDREN OF A FAMILY

Great Parent of all, we ask thy smiles upon the children of this family. May they lift up their voices for understanding, and seek for wisdom as for hidden treasures. May they remember thee, their Creator; and obey their parents in the Lord. Give them industry, temperance, and good-will. As they grow in years may they grow in favor with God and man. Do thou lead them by thy right hand. Shield them from trials too great for their virtue: and may their parents have the comfort of seeing them behave wisely and well here, and have the hope of their final acceptance in heaven.

FOR A CHILD LEAVING HOME FOR SCHOOL.

Source of all good influences, do thou be graciously present with thy young servant during *his* absence at school. May *his* life and health be precious before thee. Give *him* industry, faithfulness, and contentment; so that *he* may not lose any of the benefits of instruction through indolence, obstinacy, or pride. May *he* cheerfully submit to the wise and friendly guidance of *his* superiors; and towards *his* equals, may *he* show a kind and forgiving temper. May *his* choice of companions fall on the pure and virtuous; and

may religion be so imbedded in *his* soul, that *he* shall, like the holy child Jesus, grow in heavenly wisdom as *he* grows in age.

FOR A SICK PERSON, PRESENT OR ABSENT.

Be merciful, O Lord, in a particular manner to a family into which thou hast permitted sickness to enter. Graciously support thy *servant* under thy afflicting hand. If it seem good in thy sight, make effectual the means used for *his* restoration. To thy supporting arm and to thy healing word we commend *him*. Let the life, endeared to us by nature and affection, be kindly spared. May faith, patience, and resignation be called into lively exercise on the sick bed; and by those who tenderly and anxiously watch the progress of disease. If *he* has yet to experience wearisome days and nights, may thy grace be sufficient for *him*. May *he* resign *himself* wholly to thy disposal; and, if it please thee, let the hour of relief and deliverance soon come to pour joy and gladness into our hearts, and to tune our lips to praise.

FOR A SICK CHILD.

O thou who art a present help in every time of need; our trust and hope are in thee. O God,

we come with our intercessions for our beloved child, who is laboring under pain and sickness. We beseech thee to remove the disorder under which *he* suffers, and restore *him* to health and strength. O let not the wishes and hopes, so fondly cherished by *his* parents, be disappointed; but in thy great mercy spare *him* to be a comfort and support to their advancing years, and to be useful in the world. But if it be thy purpose to take *him;* and if we shall hear the voice saying unto us, 'Suffer thy child to come unto me, and forbid it not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven,' may we piously bow to the appointment, assured that it will be well with the child. Omniscient God, convinced that thou wilt do what is best for *him* and for us, we would not desire what it seems good to thee to deny. Let thy will be done. If in thy wisdom *he* shall be spared to us, may we train *him* up in the ways of knowledge and virtue to comfort us and glorify thee. Thine let *him* be in life, and thine in death.

IN TIME OF SICKNESS.

O thou, who knowest what is best for us, in this time of sympathy and distress, we call upon thee, who art the great Physician of soul and body, for compassion and deliverance. With humble submission to thy wisdom and goodness,

may we regard the lives dear to us as at thy disposal, and in every instance bow to thy holy will. Thou, O Lord, healest all our diseases, thou redeemest our lives from destruction, and crownest us with loving-kindness and tender mercy. Our help is in thee alone. Look upon us, we beseech thee, in pity and in love. Rebuke the malady which prevails among us, and may the lives and health of thy people be precious in thy sight.

AFTER A DEATH OF ANY PERSON IN THE FAMILY.

Sovereign Arbiter of life and death, sanctify to us the dispensation of thy providence, which has taken from the bosom of this family one of its members. These places which have known *him*, are to know *him* no more. Soothe our sorrows and comfort our minds by the words of him who is the resurrection and the life. As our dwelling has become the house of mourning, may it be the school of piety and resignation. May we so learn the uncertainty of life, that we shall in future prudently number our days, and apply our hearts to religious wisdom.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A RELATIVE OR FRIEND.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort; out of the depths of grief and trouble we lift up our souls to thee. Thou hast taken from us one in whom we were comforted, and to whom we were bound by the most durable and tender ties. While we sorrow at the painful separation, O grant that no repining thought may arise in our minds, and no complaining word escape from our lips. May we make a wise improvement of thy dealings, and be presuaded to lay up the treasure of our affections in heaven, where there shall be no decay, nor sickness, nor death; no sin to invade, and no sorrow to molest. Give us at this time the consolations of religion. Thou hast in thy infinite wisdom taken what thy love at first bestowed; and now with christian submission may we be able to say, Thy name be blessed, and thy will be done. In the midst of life we are in death. O Lord, prepare us for the great change of worlds; and may the lamp of religion be within us trimmed and burning, and we be ready whenever our summons shall come.

Bind more closely together the surviving members of this family; and may we do more than we have done, to prepare each other for the duties of life and for the day of judgment.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A NEIGHBOR.

Ever-living God, in whose sight a thousand ages are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night! be thou the support of thy servants who are now mourning the loss of a relative and friend. Sanctify, we beseech thee, this visitation of thy providence. May they experience the consolations which religion affords. By the frequent instances of mortality around us, may we learn to consider our end, and the measure of our days what it is, that we may know how frail we are. Neighbor after neighbor art thou calling away, and house after house hath witnessed the footsteps of death. Merciful God, give us grace to follow the good examples of those who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, that at length we may, with them, be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

IN A SEASON OF ANXIETY.

O thou who seest the end from the beginning; to thee, whose ear is willing to listen and whose arm is ready to help, we come for strength and courage under circumstances which bear with peculiar weight on our minds. Great God, let thy unerring *counsels* direct our steps. Let diffi-

culty and distrust vanish from our eyes; and do thou be to us and do for us more and better than we can ask, or even think.

IN TIME OF WAR.

God of power, who stillest the noise of the seas and the tumult of the people; cause the wrath of man to praise thee, and the remainder of wrath do thou restrain. Suffer not our enemies to be thy scourge unto us; but remove from us the calamity of war, and may the alarm thereof no more be heard in our streets. Prevent, we beseech thee, the effusion of human blood, and make our enemies to be at peace with us on just and honorable terms; and may we long enjoy the blessings of tranquillity, having none to molest or to make us afraid. O God, do thou hasten the time, when the reign of peace shall commence under the Prince of Peace, and when wars and sectarian bitterness shall cease to the ends of the earth.

FOR THE NATIONAL OR STATE LEGISLATURE.

O thou who rulest in the kingdoms of men, we beseech thee to bless our national (*state*) Legislature, at this time assembled. Direct and prosper their consultations so as to promote thy glory, and

the honor, safety and prosperity of thy people. May our rulers have wisdom to discern and integrity to pursue the measures most promotive of the general good; and may we be a people exalted by righteousness.

FOR A PERSON BEFORE, OR DURING A JOURNEY.

Almighty God, the Preserver of all thy creatures, and the confidence of the ends of the earth: we would humbly recommend to thy gracious protection, thy *servant*, who is going (*is gone*) from us. While far distant from us, may thy providence defend *him* in the house and by the way. Preserve *him* from the peculiar dangers and sickness to which *he* may be exposed, and, above all, from moral evil. Succeed *him* in all *his* lawful and honorable designs, and restore *him* to *his* friends in innocence and safety, that *he* may have fresh occasions to celebrate the praises of thy goodness with a thankful heart. And may we long live together, to enjoy the pleasures of domestic life, and to manifest our thankfulness for thy various mercies, by mutual love and christian obedience. After the journey of life is over, grant that we may all arrive safely in that blessed country, where there is no weariness, nor peril, nor parting.

FOR A PERSON BEFORE, OR DURING A VOYAGE.

Eternal and merciful Jehovah, thou art our Protector, and thou art our Hope. Thou spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the ocean. At thy command the winds and storms arise; and at thy word they are still. Receive thy *servant*, we beseech thee, under thine almighty protection. Preserve *him* from the dangers of the sea, and the attempts of wicked men. Whatever changes may come over the deep, let *him* feel that thou art near to listen to *his* prayer, and to nerve *his* arm. Be with *him* in other lands for *his* security and *his* health; and may *his* life be very precious in thy sight. In the appointed time, do thou restore *him* to *his* native country in safety, to enjoy the fruits of *his* industry and labor, the benefits of society, and the endearments of domestic life, with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies, who art the Giver of all good. When the sea of life is past, and its storms are spent, then, merciful God, land us on the calm and happy shore of thy heavenly kingdom.

FOR FAVORABLE WEATHER.

Father of mercies, while we acknowledge thee in all thy dealings with us and bow with submission to thy chastisements, we would implore thy

smiles upon this season, in which our plenty may be turned into scarceness. We would see thee in what we suffer. May thy blessing yet be upon the year; and the fruits of the earth in due time be brought to perfection. O may we learn by thy dispensations, to amend our lives; and while we rejoice in thy clemency, may we keep from abusing thy various bounties by intemperance. May we study the laws of nature with continual zeal; and seeing their benevolent tendencies, may we learn to trust thee in all thy dispensations.

FOR RAIN.

O thou, who art the Author of nature, thou didst promise to give rain unto thy faithful people in due season; and hast promised, by thy Son, that all who seek thy kingdom and the righteousness thereof, shall receive all things necessary to their bodily sustenance; send us, we beseech thee, in this our necessity, such moderate showers of rain, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort and relief. No longer, we pray thee, make the heavens over our heads as brass, nor the rain of our land, powder and dust. But do thou, who art the Father of the rain, visit and water thy weary heritage, that there may be grass for the cattle, and corn for the service of man.

The year, O God, is thine; and do thou crown it with thy blessing.

DURING A TEMPEST.

God of power, whose word can still the winds and calm the sea, to thy throne of mercy we look up at this hour of alarm. With thee is terrible majesty. Thou lookest on the earth and it melteth; thou touchest the mountains and they smoke. When thou thunderest in the heavens, all nature trembles at thy voice. How vain is the help of man! We feel ourselves to be nothing, and less than nothing. We have no sure protection but in thee. O thou, with whom are the issues of life and death, defend us at this season. Cause the impending desolation to pass over us. From the peril and hurt of the tempest, from thy wrath and fiery indignation, great God, deliver us. The living, the living shall praise thee; and being rescued from what we fear, may we live to serve thee and to glorify thy mercy.

OCCASIONAL THANKSGIVINGS.

AFTER THE BIRTH OF A CHILD.

Creator and Preserver of life, with grateful hearts we thank thee for thy goodness to thy handmaid, whom thou hast made the joyful mother of a living child. When we reflect on her former anxieties, how do we bless God that they are happily removed. Thou hast exchanged our face of care for the smiles of joy, and turned our trembling supplications into hymns of praise. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits; who redeemeth our lives from destruction, and crowneth them with loving kindness and tender mercies. Continue thy goodness to thy handmaid; and in due time restore her in health and strength to the added cares and joys of her family. May the life which is given, and that which is preserved, be precious in thy sight and devoted to thy service. Give to the parents of this child that wisdom which is profitable to direct. Help them to instil divine knowledge, to temper authority with gentleness, to govern it with judgment, and to draw it to goodness by their own example. O God, do thou guide, teach, sanctify and save it; and having lived a disciple

of Christ and a child of thee, may it, when born into eternity, be admitted to the joys of thy family above.

FOR RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

To the praises which we always owe to thee, the Author of every good, for all thy kindness, we would, at this time, call upon our souls to thank thee, with peculiar emotions of gratitude, for the restoration of thy *servant* to health. Thou hast preserved *him* from death; thou hast spoken the word of healing, and *he* liveth. We will unite to praise thee, for thou hast heard our supplications, and art become our salvation. Thou hast chastened us; but hast delivered us from the evil we feared. Perfect the recovery of thy *servant.* Give us a deep sense of thy mercy in this instance, and assist thy *servant* to devote *himself* to thy glory. O God, prepare *him* and prepare us all for that sickness from which we shall not recover; and enable us so to improve the blessing of health, that we may look forward with joy to that world, where there will be no weakness, nor anxiety nor pain.

FOR DELIVERANCE AMIDST GENERAL SICKNESS.

God of compassion, thou hast preserved us in health while many around us have been visited by

sickness and pain. Drawn by thy bounties and encouraged by thy grace, we would take the cup of salvation and call on thy name with adoring gratitude. In the midst of judgment thou hast remembered mercy. O let us not be spared to add transgression to transgression, but to experience thy favor which is life, and thy loving kindness which is better than life. Look in tender pity on those who are yet suffering, and may we use the health we enjoy in relieving their necessities and soothing their pains.

FOR HEALTH.

Indulgent God, we thank thee that the voice of health is heard through our dwelling. May we duly value and rightly improve this great blessing. Thou givest strength to the arm, and courage to the mind. We thank thee for our powers of motion, and our ability for labor. May the vigor of our minds be seen in the wisdom of our plans, and the strength of our purpose in their prompt execution.

FOR ANY PROSPEROUS OR HAPPY EVENT.

O thou who carest for us, accept our united thanks for the recent and important blessing, which fills our hearts with joy. For the pleasure

it yields, for the relief it affords, and for the circumstances of comfort it brings, accept, O Father, our heartfelt praise. While thy smiles are upon us, may we remember that our strength is from thee, and that when thou withdrawest thy face, we are troubled. O may thy goodness lead us to thee; and may we rejoice as though we rejoiced not, considering that the fashion of this world passeth away.

AFTER A JOURNEY.

O Father, our refuge and our strength! protection, comfort and success are all from thee. We join with thy *servant* in returning thee thanks, for preserving *him* from all the dangers to which *he* has been exposed in the house and by the way, and for restoring *him* to *his* family and friends in health and safety. While we rejoice in every instance of thy goodness to ourselves or friends, may we be careful to express the sense we have of our obligations to thee, by a suitable walk and conversation. Be with us in the journey of life which now lies before us. Guide us by thy counsel, uphold us by thy power, and supply our wants, till we come to our Father's house in peace.

AFTER A VOYAGE.

We thank thee, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast graciously watched over thy *servant* during *his* exposure to the dangers of the sea. Thine arm has been under *him* for *his* safety; and having escaped every fatal evil, thou hast brought *him* in peace to *his* desired haven. Write upon *his* heart the characters of gratitude. May *he* be duly sensible of thy continual providence, and determine to dedicate to thee the life thou hast preserved.

FOR PEACE.

Thou Author of peace and lover of concord, accept our heartfelt thanks for the continuance of our national peace and tranquillity. May we be duly sensible of this instance of thy goodness to us, and by making a proper improvement of it, secure thy future favor, and thus be that happy people whose God is the Lord. Smile upon families; and may they be so many peace societies. Prevent the rising of unhallowed passions, and the outrages of revengeful feelings. May all public teachers recommend and exhibit the peaceful spirit of Jesus. In private life may we follow peace with all men. Unite the hearts of all mankind in the bonds of brotherly love; and may the

happy time soon come, when the calamities of war and sectarian strife shall cease forever, and peace and righteousness universally prevail.

FOR RAIN AFTER A DROUGHT.

O God, our heavenly Father, who by thy gracious providence dost cause the rain to descend upon the earth, that it may bring forth fruit for man and beast; we give thee humble thanks that it hath pleased thee, in our necessity, to send us a joyful rain, and to refresh and fertilize the earth, to the great comfort of us thy servants, who desire to be grateful to thee for thy seasonable kindness, and to acknowledge ourselves indebted unto thee, not only for this but for all the blessings we enjoy.

FOR FAVORABLE WEATHER.

O God, who hast mercifully relieved us in this seasonable and happy change of weather, we praise thee for this mercy; and far from overlooking the common bounties of thy providence, we desire to receive them with true gratitude, and to show our thankfulness by using them as we ought. While we live by thy goodness, may we live to thy praise.

FOR A FRUITFUL SEASON.

Bountiful Benefactor, all that we possess proceeds from thy munificence. . To thy sovereign goodness we are indebted for all the advantages of our condition. We rejoice at this time with humble thankfulness in the gifts of thy undeserved bounty; that thou hast caused the earth to yield its increase, and crowned the year with thy goodness. Year after year hast thou furnished out the treasures of nature for our support, and we have had all things richly to enjoy. Whilst thou art thus sending down thy blessings upon us, dispose us to live in a sober, temperate, and charitable enjoyment of them, and to bring forth the fruits of holiness in our lives.

FAMILY PRAYERS

ADAPTED TO PARTICULAR TIMES.

AFTER THE DEATH OF EITHER PARENT.

To be used by the survivor with the family.

Sovereign Disposer of all events; from the depths of affliction we lift up our souls unto thee; and while we raise a confiding eye to thy throne, do thou regard us in tender compassion. O God, in thee is all our hope. In thee the weak find strength, and the disconsolate find solace; in thee the deserted have a companion, and the fatherless a Father. Under our present bereavement we would come imploring thee to pour into our troubled hearts the supports and comforts of religion.

— I would adore the providence which has taken from me the chosen partner of my days, the well-tried friend of my bosom; one, who divided with me the duties and trials of life. In the loneliness and desolation of this hour, I feel most deeply for these dear children, who must henceforth be without that guidance, aid and defence which their departed *father* was so able to devise and so ready to afford. Though thou hast not forbidden us to mourn, let us not mourn as those who are without the christian's hope. While

we dwell on the virtues which adorned *his* character, and think of *his* patience in the days of suffering and *his* hope in the hour of death, may *his* loss be sanctified to us for our present and everlasting good.

Father of mercies, thou carest for us more than we can care for ourselves. We would lay down the burden of our sorrows before thee, and look to thee alone for consolation and help. Let not our affliction bring any distrust of thy wisdom or goodness; but may we, in our present bereavement and in our future deprivations, firmly believe that thou art all wisdom in thyself, and all goodness towards thy creatures. In taking from this family such a friend, do thou become its guide, counsellor and stay. Send out strength, O God, from thy holy heavens on the surviving parent; and amidst accumulating duties do thou give that wisdom which is profitable to direct.

Bless and comfort these children. Forlorn and deserted as they feel, may they find in thee a Parent and a Friend. Take possession of their hearts, and may they be children of God. Protect their innocence and sustain their virtue amid the temptations of a seducing world. Make them equal to the duties, and equal to the trials of life. Whenever the deep clouds of sorrow shall darken their path, may they look to thee for light and hope. On thee may they depend for wisdom to know, and disposition to choose, and strength to

perform, and submission to suffer, and patience to wait. And having honored thee by the lives which they have lived, may they glorify thee by the death they shall die; and finally be admitted to that world, where sorrow, decay and separation can find no room.

Lord of life, as our numbers lessen, may the survivors feel bound together by still stronger ties. We would now dedicate ourselves to thee. We submit ourselves to the disposal of that wis dom which cannot err, and to the care of that goodness which is unchangeable and everlasting. Lead us whither thou choosest; place us in what circumstances thou shalt judge proper; and may we do thy whole will with fidelity, and bear thy whole will with resignation.

— With a lively sympathy we remember others in affliction. Do thou graciously uphold them, and give them comfort from thy holy word. We pray for the sick; and amid the strong pains of disease and the wasting of life, may they find in thee a refuge and deliverer. Be with those who stand watching and serving in anxious suspense at the bed-sides of suffering relatives. Gird them with strength for their solemn duties, and make them angels of relief and consolation. O God, give to the living a pure zeal in thy service, and to the dying a strong hope in thy mercy. *

In the name of our Redeemer we offer our prayer; and in him, the resurrection and the life,

we look forward to a better and happier world, to which do thou at last receive us, and to thee shall be rendered ceaseless praise. Amen.

AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

Eternal Jehovah; in thee we live, and move, and have our being. In thy hand is our breath; and it is because thou hast sustained us, that we have continued to this day. God of our lives, with profound humility we desire to worship thee in whose duration there is no succession, one day being with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a single day. All that is past is treasured in thy memory; every thing present lies open to thy discernment, and every dark futurity is unvailed before thy providence. Eternal Fountain of light and truth, we appear before thee to close in thy presence another of the revolutions of our fleeting existence; and being assured that we have not many of these periods left to notice, we earnestly pray, that the year may not terminate without calling us to calm self-scrutiny and serious reflection.

Thou hast been the unfailing source of goodness. Thou hast brought us into this world, and placed us in this probationary state. Thou didst shield us from every danger during the exposures of infancy; and every day have we tasted that

the Lord is gracious. We fed upon thy bounties before we knew thee to be the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Thou hast helped us in all our troubles. Often hast thou healed our diseases, removed our sorrows, and renewed our strength. Thy candle has shone upon our dwelling, thy love has nourished us, and thy smiles have gladdened our hearts. Food, raiment, shelter, health, strength, friends, comfort, hope, usefulness, all, all have been from thee. Every week and every day has published thy loving kindness, and the year is thick-set with tokens of thy parental care. Whilst many, during this period, have been cut down and have passed into eternity, we are yet numbered with the living. Especially we bless thee for the continuance of our christian privileges. The toils and trials of the week have been refreshed and relieved by the delights of the Sabbath. Through the riches of thy long-suffering and forbearance, thou art continuing us in a state of trial, giving us space for repentance, and favoring us with thy holy gospel, and with all necessary means of grace and reformation. May the review of thy rich and abounding mercies tune our lips to praise, and warm our hearts to gratitude.

We have cause to be grateful and we have cause also to be humble in our review of the past. The closing year reminds us of sins committed, talents unimproved, and duties left undone. The

moments which have been wasted fill us now with regret, as they stand a blemish in our history and a stain on our souls. We would mourn over every act which has made us less useful, less pious, or less happy. God of compassion; take not thy holy spirit from us. Continue to us thy heavenly blessings. Prepare us for future changes in our condition, and let them be sanctified to our truest interest and happiness. We commit ourselves to thy care; we devote ourselves to thy service; we refer all events concerning us to thine infinite wisdom and fatherly goodness. Lead us seasonably to consider the things that belong to our peace. Let the last hours of this year lead us to put a new value on time, and to apprise us of the shortness of life, the nearness of death, and the certainty of judgment. Enable us to depart from the world, when thou shalt call us away, with tranquillity and comfort of mind, exempt from the terrors of guilt, and cheered with the hopes of the gospel: and we, the people of thy care, the children of thy love, the disciples of thy Son, would give thee thanks throughout all generations, and show forth thy praise forever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.

O thou who art the same from everlasting to everlasting, God of the spirits of all flesh, Preserver of the children of men; mercifully hear thy servants, who would hallow the beginning of the year by the sacrifice of thanksgiving and the offering of prayer.

We acknowledge, that, in seasons past, we have often been too earnest about things of sense and time, too regardless of the objects of faith and futurity. We confess we have too often walked in a vain show, and disquieted ourselves in vain. Our years have been spent like a tale that is told. We cannot deny that we have been oftentimes undutiful and unthankful. Shouldst thou judge without mercy, we must be utterly destitute of hope. Shouldst thou deal with us according to our sins, we must be miserable indeed. But we rejoice that thou desirest not the ruin of thy creatures, but rather that they should repent and live. It is our desire, O God, to cast off all the unfruitful works of darkness, and to walk as children of the light and of the day. It is our purpose, that this year shall witness our greater reformation from every thing that is amiss in us, and our increasing improvement in the graces of the christian character.

While these revolutions of time measure out to us our days, may they impress us with a solemn

sense of the importance of this probationary life. If it be consistent with the purposes of thy inscrutable wisdom, we pray, O Lord, that our lives may be spared; not merely that we may enjoy an animal existence, but that we may be furnished with an opportunity of doing and becoming better. If thou wilt, we desire the continuance of health and comfort. If thou shouldst send sickness or adversity to us, and we must suffer the loss of worldly supports and earthly friends, may we be prepared for these and all other changes in our condition. If it be thy decree, that this year we should die, may we be ready for our departure. We dare not say we will do this or that; but we would cherish one resolution, to become and always to be such as thou shalt be pleased to approve. Believing thou wilt bring to pass that which is best for us, we would sacredly dedicate ourselves to thee, submitting our ways to thy guidance, and our interests to thy disposal. Prepare us for life, prepare us for death and for eternity. May we go on our way with new resolutions of obedience, new gratitude for thy mercies, and new vigor to perform thy will.

Heavenly Father, do thou preserve us from every injurious delay. Let not the night of darkness, in which no man can work, overtake us unawares. Forbid that we should ever presume on life, or boast of to-morrow, or be immoderately attached to earthly things. If death shall ap-

proach us by slow advances, may it find us well employed; and if we are suddenly called to exchange worlds, may it not be our lot to have treasured up fear and remorse.

O thou, who art the God of our lives and the length of our days, we would begin this year with thee, and in thy service we would spend it. In pursuing the things of time, let us not forget the claims of eternity. This year let the Redeemer triumph in the hearts of men; and may thy word go forth to cheer the desponding, to alarm the careless, and to save the lost: and may all nations be subdued to the obedience of the gospel. Aid the faithful in their christian labors by thy most gracious favor, and fill the world with thy glory. And when our years shall cease to revolve on earth, O receive us to thy presence, where there is neither beginning of years nor end of days. Hear us, holy One, through our great Mediator; and unto thee, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

SPRING.

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all things; with unerring wisdom thou maintainest the beauty and order of nature. We look up with joy and confidence to thy gracious power which causeth

the returning seasons to know their place. Thou hast sent forth thy spirit; thou renewest the face of the earth. The laws of nature are thy government, and the effects of them are the dispensations of thy providence. Summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat are directed by thee. At one time thou givest snow like wool, and scatterest the hoar-frost like ashes; at another time thou bringest food out of the earth, and causest grass to grow for cattle, and herb for the service of man.

Because thine eye is upon the year, from the beginning even unto the end, we are now called to rejoice that the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear upon earth, the singing of birds is come; the tree puts forth its leaves, and the fields give forth their fragrance; the mountains and hills break forth into singing, and the trees of the forest clap their hands. O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

We bless thee for the beneficial influences of the heavenly bodies; for the light of the sun, and the constant revolution of the seasons and all the rich provision thou hast made for our present support and delight. We bless thee for all our comforts during the inclemencies of the winter which is now past; for all the pleasant intercourse of domestic life, and the kind offices of mutual friendship and good neighborhood; and, above all, we rejoice in our capacities for contemplating

thy mighty works with emotions of religious praise and pleasure.

We now behold the effects of thy powerful energy. All nature bespeaks a present Deity. We would look up to thee from whom cometh our help. May devotion invigorate and sanctify the labors of the approaching season. May he who plougheth, plough with religious hope. May he who soweth, duly rejoice in the expectation of his reaping. As our great Exemplar hath taught us, we pray for our daily bread; and do thou feed us with food convenient for us. Bless thou the springing of the year, and enrich the earth with the rain of heaven; let our pastures be clothed with flocks, our valleys covered with corn, and the year crowned with thy goodness.

Above all, we beseech thee to multiply the spiritual seed of divine truth. Crown with an abundant blessing our spiritual labors; and while we reap the harvest of bread, O may we reap the richer fruits of righteousness. By our spiritual improvements, may we be like unto that earth, which, drinking in the rain that cometh oft upon it, bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, and receiveth blessing from God; and not like unto that, which, bearing thorns and briars, is rejected, and nigh unto cursing, whose end is to be burned.

Establish us in every good word and work, and *unite us* more closely to him who is the true vine.

As branches in him, do thou mercifully spare and purge us, and may we glorify thee, our heavenly Father, by bearing much fruit. Unto thee, O God, who art the Author of our condition, and the Foundation of our hope, be praises everlasting. Amen.

SUMMER.

Eternal God, the Creator of the world, whose almighty power and continual agency are seen by the things which are made; we beseech thee to enable us to derive instruction from the prospects of the present season. We would raise our thoughts to thee, by whom the sun rises in his strength, and in his daily course diffuses light and heat over the world; by whom the earth is overspread with trees, and herbs, and flowers; who art the Father of the former and latter rain, and nightly begettest the drops of the dew. We adore thee in all the various productions of the earth, which thou art now causing to advance to maturity for the support, comfort, and delight of thy creatures. We desire never to forget thine hand in the glorious scenes by which we are surrounded, or cease to receive all the moral lessons thy works convey. While we gratefully adore thy goodness in the present circumstances of this life, teach us to trust in thy mercy and deliver-

ance when adversity shall overtake us. May we preserve on our minds an affecting sense of this truth, that all flesh is grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass. Having been planted in thy vineyard, may we bring forth much good fruit, so that we may finally be numbered among those who are not cumberers of the ground. May our faith increase continually. O grant, that by the milk of thy word we may grow up unto him in all things who is the head, even Christ. Make our souls as a well-watered garden; and may the soil, by divine cultivation, yield all the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

May the middle aged regard the summer as indicating their period of life, and consider the sun, which now goeth forth in his might, as the true emblem of their duty. May they recollect that they must give light and joy to the moral world of men, dispensing the genial rays of truth, and showing the benevolence of the eternal Mind. We bless thee, whose works as well as words speak thy will, for the confirmation which the season affords to our religious faith. The corn of wheat, that was cast into the ground, has resumed the body that pleased thee. We will inquire no more,—How are the dead raised up, and with what bodies do they come? O may it be our happiness to be quickened at death according to thy grace, that our bodies may be fashioned like to his glorious body, who is the resurrection and the life.

O that man would praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Blessed be the Lord God, from everlasting to everlasting, and let all the people say, Amen.

AUTUMN.

O thou who art giving us all things richly to enjoy; bountiful Father, we bless thee for the rich provision which thou hast made for our bodily sustenance. Although we have not walked in thy statutes, and kept thy commandments as we ought, yet, by thy mercy, the land has yielded her increase and the trees their fruit. Thou hast not left thyself without witness to thy people, for thou hast given rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. We praise thee for the blessings of the harvest, which have been so abundant, and beseech thee to direct us in the temperate and frugal use of thy various bounties. O may we not expose ourselves to the accusation of wasting thy goods, nor abuse them in riotous living. With humble thanks we would receive and enjoy thy gifts, acknowledging at the same time that we are not worthy of the rich fruits of thy providence.

Grant, O Father, that our souls may be impressed with divine lessons from the prospects of

the season. We have been planted in thy vineyard; we have been united to a choice vine; but, alas! we confess with shame, that we have not brought forth grapes that are good, but wild grapes; and thou mightest in just judgment have taken away the hedge, broken down the wall, trodden under foot thy vineyard, and commanded the clouds no more to rain upon it. But we are witnesses of thy divine patience and forbearance. Spare us of thy grace, and grant us a further season to bring forth fruit. When thy love does not constrain obedience, may thy terrors persuade; and by the expectation of the harvest in the end of the world, may we be awakened to sobriety, diligence, and watchfulness. O may we all, at this season, receive the joyful assurance, that the wise and worthy shall reap in due time, if they faint not. Assist us, O God, while we are amidst the rich favors of thy providence, to live to thy praise. We offer our prayers through him in whom we have a hope full of immortality; and in his name be glory to thee forever. Amen.

WINTER.

Supremely great and glorious Lord our God; before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth or the world, from *everlasting* to everlasting, thou art God. The

things which our eyes behold shall perish, but thou shalt endure; they shall be changed, but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. Thou art calling us, at this time, to witness the periodical decay of nature; yet not without a hope, from the immutability of thy character and laws, that there will be a renovation.

In the order of thy works, thou art now giving snow like wool, scattering the hoar-frost like ashes, and sending thy cold, before which unprotected life cannot stand. With devout gratitude we retire to our warm habitations, and solace ourselves with the security and love of our domestic retreats. We would be particularly mindful of our brethren, who may inhabit the cheerless house of want. O may not our hearts be cold when we see the naked, nor our hands be shut against the hungry. May the poor every where have occasion to bless the rich, and may prayers, thanksgivings and alms unitedly ascend to thee. Appear, O Father, for the protection of those who are coming on our sea-coast at this dangerous season; when they are tossed and afflicted, do thou deliver them, and bring them to their destined haven.

O thou who rulest the year; may our reflections on the season carry religious lessons to our hearts. We adore thy incomprehensible power, which ordains, in their proper order, the effects we now behold. Thou sendest forth thy com-

mandment upon the earth, and the windy storm and tempest fulfil thy pleasure. By thee, the waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. All is the work of thy almighty strength and boundless wisdom. We desire to be filled with a sense of thy care and love, when we consider thy multiplied provisions for the support and comfort of man and beast during this barren, inclement season. We rejoice before thee in the assurance that the elements are under thy control, subject to thy invariable laws; and that in the appointed time, thou, who bindest the sweet influences of Pleiades, and loosest the bands of Orion, wilt renew the face of the earth, and spread life and beauty through all nature.

O thou, who hast given senses and speech and reason to man, preserve us from misemploying the leisure now afforded us in excessive or hurtful diversions; but may we use it for cultivating our minds, examining our hearts, and laying up stores of knowledge and goodness. O may the changes of the year lead us to consider how the fashion of this world passeth away, and to place our affections on thee, the unchangeable and eternal good.

By the death of the powers of nature, thou art warning us to remember that we are mortal; and that if, by reason of strength, we live many years, we may expect old age to benumb our faculties and destroy our activity. By our diligence and

fidelity in youth and manhood, may we provide comfortable reflections, and pleasing hopes, to cheer us in the days of infirmity and the winter of life.

Blessed be thy name, that as we know thou wilt make the fields, now desolate, to rejoice, so thou wilt raise from the dead those who sleep in Jesus; that this mortal shall put on immortality, and this corruptible shall put on incorruption. O make us thy upright and faithful servants while we live, that we may die in peace, and rest in hope, and rise in glory, through Jesus Christ, the Prince of life. Amen.

ANNUAL FAST.

Just and holy God, who lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity; to thee all hearts are open, all desires are known. Called this day to humiliation and prayer, do thou make it a sacred season to our souls, by impressing upon us every motive to sincere repentance and a holy life.

— O Lord, our only hope is in thy mercy. With thee there is plenteous redemption; and having proclaimed thyself willing to forgive, we rely on divine compassion. We blush under the humiliating consciousness that thou hast been following us with thy loving kindness, while we have been sinning against thee. Deep and abid-

ing sorrow belongs to us. We would seek that forgiveness which thy word promises, and fly to that redemption of which Christ is the minister.

Righteous Father, we would examine ourselves as members of a family. When we look into thy perfect law and see what we should be, and then reflect on our characters and find what they are, we may justly confess sins of ignorance and presumption. If as a family we have yielded to temptation, and the year past has seen us angry without cause and beyond bounds; if we have been uncharitable, unjust, undutiful, or unkind; if plenty has been abused by luxury, and liberty by licentiousness; if our ease and safety have only led to strife, envyings, and divisions; above all, if we have been indifferent to thy worship, restrained prayer, and forgotten the Saviour who died for us; if we have thus broken the ties which should bind us to one another and to thee, do thou, merciful God, convince us of our sins and folly, and lead us back to innocence, piety, and peace. May we no longer be hardened and blinded; but let it please thee to look in tender compassion on thy frail and forgetful children, who would now turn to thee with sorrowing and penitent hearts.

— Universal Parent, we would recognise our near connexion with the citizens of this nation; and as we are now called upon to humble ourselves for our sins, we beseech thee mercifully to

regard a commonwealth prostrate at thy footstool, and to hear the voice which will issue to-day from so many temples and closets, saying, Spare thy people O Lord and give not thy heritage to reproach. While we rejoice in our exemption from drought, pestilence, and war; and thank thee for our safety and success, our fruitful seasons and goodly heritage; above all, while we thank thee for the progress of science and literature, of civil and religious freedom, of pure and primitive Christianity, we must nevertheless mourn over sins which yet deform our beloved country. We mourn over the violations of piety and truth, of righteousness and law, of temperance and purity. We mourn over the existence of treachery and the displays of pride, the perpetration of cruelty and the prevalence of slander. Especially we mourn over the neglect of the Bible, the Sabbath, and the sanctuary. These sins, so full of ruin, fill our faces with shame and our hearts with dread. The land mourneth because of wickedness. O God, if we of this family have been partakers of any of these sins, may we this day humble ourselves to the very dust before thee in shame and self-reproach, and so repent that in future we shall be no more the enemies of thee and man. Cleanse us, thou pure and perfect Spirit, from every pollution, and restore us to truth, usefulness, and piety. Pour out upon thy people the spirit of prayer and humiliation, and

show them the things which belong to their peace before this hour of reconciliation be past. O may they no longer abuse thy mercies, but keep this day such a fast as thou hast chosen; and, loosing every bond of wickedness, become a peculiar people zealous of good works.

Supreme Director of human affairs, while we lament the sins which cleave to us and to our country, and ask thee to spare those who penitently confess their faults, we would intercede for all sorts and conditions of men. Fountain of all power, bless those in authority; and may they who make and they who execute the laws, be men of wisdom and justice, of industry and truth, of piety and peace. May they ever keep our land an abode of freedom, order, and Christianity; and may virtue and judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. Endue with grace and clothe with godliness the ministers of religion. May they do honor to thy truth in their public services and private conduct. Faithful and fearless may they show thy people their transgressions. We besecch thee to bless all seminaries of learning, instructers of youth, and patrons of education, and grant that all our means of mental, moral, and religious advancement may be thankfully acknowledged and diligently improved. Prosper those who labor, and may lawful trade in all its branches receive thy blessing.

Compassionate Father, we again ask thy favor

on the purposes of this day. May a spirit of seriousness and self-reflection pervade all classes, and the professed humiliation of the day be real. God forbid that we should confess sins which we do not feel, or retain those we confess. Do thou give us such a deep persuasion of the evil of sin that we shall wholly forsake it.

— Author of nature, we ask thy smiles on the opening season. Order all things in much mercy for us, and whatever earthly good thou shalt deny us, deny us not thy heavenly grace. May the year be crowned with thy goodness, and we be permitted to rejoice before thee at its close as the true disciples of Christ. *

In that name, which is above every name, we offer our prayer, ascribing to thee all praise forever. Amen.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING.

Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits. Indulgent Father, in thee all goodness dwells; from thee all blessings flow. On this anniversary we come as a family around this altar, to pay our tribute of joyful thanks for the many blessings public and private, temporal and spiritual, which thou hast given and continued to us in the year past.

— Mornings and evenings have returned with the visitations of thy love, and the joy of thy salvation. Laden as we have been with thy bounties, may it be found that our hearts are filled with thy love, and our lips tuned for thy praise. We would adore that goodness, which glows in the sun, refreshes in the breeze, distils in the fruitful dew, descends in the copious shower, smiles on us by day and watches over us by night, opens upon us in the joyous spring and gladdens our hearts in the bounteous autumn. O Lord, if we speak of thy mercies, they are more than we can number.

Our guardian God, we thank thee for thy care of the members of this family, and for permitting so many to meet this day to rejoice together in health, prosperity, and friendship. Blessed be God for the ties which bind us to one another, and for that communion of hearts which gives to social enjoyments and family affections a new and delightful relish. We thank thee for thy gifts through the past season. We thank thee for the food that has nourished, for the raiment that has clothed, and for the health that has cheered us. We have sat under our own vines and in the shelter of our own dwellings, having none to molest or make us afraid. In whatever degree the strength of our memories, the clearness of our understandings, and the tranquillity of our passions have been preserved, to thee be the praise.

We thank thee for the good influences of parental education; for the salutary lessons received from pious ministers, and for all the benefits derived from reading, conversation, and experience. Especially we thank thee for the continuance of our religious favors, the spiritual manna, the bread that came down from heaven, the gospel of Jesus, the words which minister everlasting peace. O God, thy goodness is above all praise; extensive as thy works, and boundless as eternity.

— We thank thee for our public blessings, that we enjoy liberty, safety, and plenty; that we do not groan under the miseries of tyranny, bloodshed, and ruin; that thou hast given us a fruitful season, and preserved us from famine, pestilence, and war. We bless thee for the comforts of good neighborhood, for the labors of the wise, the means of education, the privilege of public worship, the support of civil order, the administration of justice, for every encouragement to well-doing, every manifestation of useful truth, and for all the advantages of our condition.

Bountiful Supporter of the world's great family, while we ask the continuance of thy blessings, we especially ask for wisdom to improve them aright. Let not our prosperity destroy us, and thy gifts become the means of nourishing pride and presumption, lust and intemperance; but do thou dispose us to a grateful and prudent use of thy bounties. Above all, we desire to value temporal

things by their relation to eternity; and may we never think we prosper unless our souls prosper; or that we are rich unless we are rich towards thee; or that we are wise unless we are wise to salvation.

— In the spirit of the gospel, we would extend our good wishes to all beings capable of happiness. Bless, we pray thee, all our rulers, judges, and officers in authority. May our land be the abode of truth and freedom, of religion and peace. Let thy mercy descend on thy whole church; purify it by thy spirit, and preserve it from error. Strengthen its ministers, and touch their lips with the fire of thine altar. Prosper the means of education; enlighten the ignorant; convert the unbelieving; cheer the persecuted; relieve the distressed; speak peace to troubled consciences; strengthen the weak; confirm the strong; deliver the oppressed from him who spoileth him, and succor the needy who hath no helper. Open in every land an asylum for distress. Multiply the cheering fruits of hospitality and kindness; cause the tear of sympathy to console the afflicted; scatter the cloud that hangs over the mind of the upright; avert the tempest which is ready to break on the innocent, and erect in every heart an altar for thy praise. *

— Giver of every good, as we this day rejoice in the blessings of the harvest, we pray that we may make it a day of temperate feasting and

religious gladness. Let not the table or the cup become a snare to us; but may we honor thee under all our enjoyments, and live to thy glory while we live on thy bounties.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise thy God, O Zion! Let every thing which has breath praise the Lord. Amen.

CHRISTMAS.

Glory be to God in the highest; on earth peace, good-will to men. With angels and archangels, with all the company of heaven, we would join to praise and magnify thy glorious name for the gift of a Saviour. We welcome the first beams of the sun of righteousness, as he rises to pour on a dark and sinful world the splendor of heavenly light. We recognise Jesus, as the Messiah, the Messenger of the new covenant, the Desire of all nations. Lord God of Israel, we rejoice before thee, that in the fulness of time he, who was to come, did come; and for this thy gift we would as a family compass thine altar, and hallow this day with the voice of thanksgiving.

— Adored be thy mercy for thy promise to the Jewish fathers. But what thanks should we not give thee, that we live to behold what the patriarchs could only foresee, the prophets foretell, and righteous men desire! Now is come salvation,

and the power of our God: let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, for the Lord has visited his people. O give us an ear to hear and a heart to understand the great things which thou hast done for us. Commissioned from the realms of light, thy Son appeared on earth the visible representative of thee, who art invisible. Filled with thy spirit, given to him without measure, he came to seek and to save those who were lost to moral truth and spiritual hope. Forever blessed be thy name, that he proclaimed on earth the religion of heaven; and never can we sufficiently thank thee for the proofs he gave that thou wast with him, by the miracles he wrought, by the prophecies he uttered and fulfilled, by the purity of his doctrines, the excellence of his precepts, and the perfection of his example. Glory be to thee, Father most merciful, for such compassion to a sinful world. Thou hast not regarded us as enemies; and when there was no eye to pity and no arm that could save, then thou didst lay help on one who was mighty. Not that we loved thee, but that thou didst love us, and didst send thy only begotten Son; and we are reconciled to thee through the redemption there is in Christ Jesus. Blessed be thy name, that he disclosed to us thy whole character, explained to us our moral nature, proclaimed the terms of pardon and acceptance, and brought life and immortality to ight.

Fountain of all spiritual good, let it not be said of us, that Christ came to us and we received him not. O let it not be our condemnation that light is come into the world, and we have chosen darkness rather than light. We beseech thee to prepare us for that blessed Saviour whom thou hast prepared for us; and may he who came into the world in the fulness of time, come into our souls in the fulness of his grace. And now, while we hail him in his advent as the Messiah, we would prepare a way for him in our hearts. May every valley of doubt be filled up, every mountain of pride be brought low, the crooked paths of error be made straight, and the rough places of wickedness be made smooth. O God, we desire to receive him as our Saviour, to learn of him as our Teacher, to follow him as our Guide, to love him as our Friend, to be numbered among his true disciples, and to become fellow-heirs with him in thy heavenly kingdom. As his religion hallows our social affections, may we, as a family, be living branches of that true vine, separate from whom we can do nothing. As he came to earth that he might raise us to heaven, and was clothed in our nature that we might be made partakers of thine, we earnestly pray, that we may live the lives we live in the flesh by faith in him, and thus begin our heaven here.

— Give prosperity to the church of thy Son; and as he is the rock on which it is built, the

manna by which it is fed, and the light by which it is cheered, grant that all may build on this foundation, eat of this bread, and walk in this light. O thou who hast given pastors and teachers for the edifying of the body of Christ, follow with thy blessing the efforts of Christian ministers; and may they clearly and powerfully set forth the precepts which the gospel enjoins, the example it presents, the motives it offers, the grace it communicates, the aid it brings, and the hope it inspires. We pray thee to send the gospel through the whole earth. Scatter the darkness which prevents men from seeing the glory of Christ. Weaken the powers which oppose the progress of his word, and succeed the labors of all who would extend it. May it prevail over ignorance, skepticism, and idolatry, and by the power of its truth and the exemplary conduct of those who profess it, may it enter the hearts and govern the lives of all the inhabitants of the earth, and make all nations righteous and happy.

Father of all, smile on those families who meet to rejoice in this day. Let them duly value a religion, which has come down to them confirmed by the blood of martyrs and the voice of ages, and which binds them together as members of the household of faith. *

And now may grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with us all forever. Amen.

FORMS OF SERVICE FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.

To be used by any society when destitute of a minister.

MORNING SERVICE.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.

Our Father who art in heaven, we thank thee for continuing our lives and health to another Sabbath. We would now enter thy gates with thanksgiving and thy courts with praise. In the name of our great Mediator we would worship thee in spirit and in truth. We have come to the house of prayer; do thou pour upon us the spirit of prayer and supplication, that we may hunger and thirst after righteousness. We have come to the house of praise; do thou awaken every grateful emotion, that in psalms and hymns we may sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord. We have come to the house of instruction; enable us to receive the kingdom of God as a little child. May we celebrate thy perfections with reverence and joy, acknowledge thy mercies with gratitude and love, confess our sins with humility and penitence, offer our petitions with piety and fervor, and intercede for our brethren with sympathy and affection. O God,

serving thee thus with freedom and delight, may this Sabbath be as one of the days of heaven to our souls; and by the means of religion and the dispensations of thy providence, may we be fitted for the higher services and nobler enjoyments of thy heavenly temple. Hear us, merciful Parent, as the disciples of Jesus Christ, through whom to thee be glory in the church forever. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE SERMON.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the name of him, whose glorious rising this day commemorates, we would come as children before a Parent, as subjects before a Sovereign, as sinners before a Being of infinite purity, to present our united tribute of prayer and praise. When we consider that thine eye is at this moment upon us, and that thy judgment of us at last will be as exact as thy memory, we tremble lest we should present to thee now but the offering of our lips. Searcher of hearts, we would adore thee as the source of all being, the fountain of all good; from whom all blessings proceed, and to whom all gratitude is due.

— We revere the power which formed and upholds the heavens and the earth, we admire the wisdom which established the order of nature and which directs the concerns of the universe, and

we love the goodness which is never wearied in making thy creatures happy. We thank thee for the institution of a day of sacred rest; a day set apart from worldly cares and employments; a day when we can quietly examine our hearts, and read thy holy word, and bring to thee the burdens and wants of the soul. May this be a Sabbath in which we shall happily gain some new impressions, form some new resolutions, and strengthen our christian hopes.

The return of this day reminds us of our spiritual blessings in Christ. We bring praise to thy altar, Father all-glorious, for divine compassion shown to a world lying in wickedness. We bless thee for the Messenger of the new covenant, whom thou didst send to redeem men from the curse of the law, to proclaim remission of sins, to deliver us from the wrath to come, to abolish death, and bring life and immortality to light. We rejoice with joy unspeakable that he has taught us that thou art love, and wouldst not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. We thank thee for the power which enabled him to give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, soundness to the maimed, and life to the dead. Thou art redeeming us by the doctrines he delivered, by the example he set, and by the death he suffered. Cheerfully and thankfully would we embrace the merciful invitations and the offered blessings of the gospel.

What shall we render to the Lord, for all his benefits! alas, what have we rendered? O God, while we call to mind thy rich and multiplying favors, we must own with shame and confusion of face, that they have not always led us to thee. We have not looked from the gift to the Giver. The chain of mercies has not bound us in obedience to thy throne. We lament our forgetfulness of thee. We would truly mourn over the coldness of our devotions, the insensibility of our hearts, the frequency of our sins. God of compassion, our only hope is in thy mercy through a Redeemer. Make us to know and forsake our sins; and first of all those which most easily beset us. O may we see ourselves as thou seest us; and let not a deceived heart misguide us. If we have deluded ourselves with the hope of impunity, because we have escaped the inspection and censure of men, do thou awaken us to consider that nothing can obstruct thy perfect vision, or destroy thy memory of our sin.

Thou Father of spirits, teach us the nature and value of our souls, and help us to consecrate them in purity and holiness to thee. For the future we would live like children of God; and as the day-spring from on high has visited us, may the day-star of religion arise in our hearts, may the sun of righteousness enlighten our minds, and may our path be that of the just which shines *brighter* and brighter to the perfect day. To this

end we ask for the spirit of Jesus, the spirit of meekness and truth, of fortitude and trust, of charity and devotion. As disciples of a dying Saviour, may we die unto sin; as disciples of a risen Redeemer, may we walk in newness of life; as disciples of an ascended Intercessor, may we set our affections on things above. O God, we desire to love thee more and serve thee better; to love our Saviour more and serve him better; to love each other more and serve each other better; and to be more willing to do unto others as we wish others should do unto us.

But we pray not for ourselves alone. May the religion of thy Son be extended over every heathen land, and rule in every human heart. Bless the inhabitants of this town; may pure worship ascend from their domestic altars, and religious instruction be imparted in every family. Bless the whole human race. Be graciously with those, who, by land or by sea, must wake and watch. Soothe the pains of the sick; speak pardon and peace to sleepless consciences; guide the traveller on his way; preserve the mariner from the fury of the tempest, and direct him through the paths of the deep. Be a Father of the fatherless; a Deliverer to the oppressed; a Friend to all who are under neglect or contempt, or in want; and especially those who are persecuted for conscience and righteousness' sake. Be kind to all our friends and to all our enemies; to

all who have prayed for us, and to all who have desired that we should pray for them. *

— Give prosperity to the churches of thy Son. Supply destitute flocks with pastors after thine own heart; and may thy ministers preach Jesus Christ and him crucified, so as to make men wise to salvation.

In that name, which is above every name, we bring these requests to thy throne of mercy; and in the words of our blessed Mediator we close our prayer; Our Father &c.

CONCLUDING PRAYER.

O thou who hearest prayer, again we enter thy sacred presence in the offices of devotion. By thy providence we have been led to the knowledge and worship of thee, the one true God, and thou hast appointed the public ordinances of religion for our improvement in piety and virtue; we give thee thanks for the privileges of thy house at this time. Thou Fountain of wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking, we beseech thee to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things, which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us as the disciples of thy Son. Through him we pray, that the words we have now heard with our

outward ears may be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor of thy holy name. Forgive what thou hast seen amiss in us during our present waiting upon thee. Above all, we pray, that we may not rest in the forms of religion. May we never mistake the excitement of our passions, for the renewing of thy spirit. May we never judge of our piety by occasional impulses, but by our constant temper and prevailing habits. May our hearts be right with thee, and our lives such as become the gospel. Hear us, O God, and answer us in mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION.

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from Jesus Christ our Lord, be with us all evermore. Amen.

EVENING SERVICE.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.

Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion, and unto thee shall the vow be performed. We thank thee for the manifestations of thy power, wisdom, and goodness, and for all thy wonderful works to

the children of men. Teach us to magnify thee as we ought; to worship thee as Jesus did, to bend our whole soul and our every thought in adoration before the throne of thine unspeakable majesty. We have come around thine altar as the followers of thy Son; and do thou meet with us and bless us. Help us to warm each other's hearts, to assist each other's devotion, to animate each other's hopes, and to supplicate for each other's pardon. May we remember that this is none other than the house of God, and may it become to us the gate of heaven. May we read thy word by that spirit in which it was written, may we offer our prayers in the strong urgency of christian faith; may we sing to thy praise with enlivened devotion, and gain some new strength for our heavenly race. Omniscient and merciful God, give us those things which thou knowest to be good for us, though we, through ignorance, should neglect to pray for them; and avert from us those which would be hurtful, though we should earnestly desire them. And having worshipped thee aright on earth, may we be fitted to join the assembly of the just made perfect, in ascribing glory and honor, dominion and power to him who sitteth on the throne forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE SERMON.

O thou who alone art Jehovah, the only God, the high and lofty One, to whom the universe owes its being and support; while angels bow in profound humility before thee and archangels veil their faces, what homage and prostration are due from us, the frail and sinning children of mortality! Forever blessed be thy name for the assurance, that although nothing can be added to thy glory by the service of men or angels, yet thou wilt regard us with compassion when we bring our confiding hearts to thine altar, and graciously fit us for the blessings we implore. Low at thy footstool we bend, and in the name of our glorified Redeemer we would ask for mercy, because we are sinners; we would entreat for thine assistance, because we are weak; we would pray for that support without which we cannot exist, and for that favor without which we cannot be happy.

Bountiful Father, thy rich and varied gifts demand the return of thankful hearts. The lives which thy love bestowed, thy power has sustained. Thou hast been bountiful to us beyond our necessities, and merciful beyond our hopes. Year after year thou hast made the earth to furnish its treasures for our support. Each opening day has revealed to us thy care, and each coming night

has recorded thy munificence. Especially we thank thee for the continued strength of our minds; for that reason which pursues truth, examines motives, and determines duty; and for those moral powers, which control our appetites, nourish our good affections, and prepare us for happiness by making us holy. O God, while we rejoice in the divinity that beams from thy works, we would give thee everlasting thanks for the inspiration that breathes from thy word. Our souls would kindle into the highest praise at the remembrance of him whose character was attested by thy voice from heaven, declaring, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' Glory be to thee, that the records of Christianity have come down to us, confirmed by the blood of martyrs and the voice of ages, and that we also are permitted to hear the glad tidings which angels announced. We thank thee for the gospel; so majestic in its simplicity, sublime in its doctrines, glorious in its objects, astonishing in its effects, immortal in its rewards. For these and for many unfelt blessings, Father, we thank thee.

Witness and Judge of men, while we celebrate thy perfections and speak of thy bounties, we are awakened to a sense of our unfaithfulness. Thou hast been doing much for us, but we have been doing little for ourselves. We deplore the sins which we have at any time committed, in thought

or affection, in word or deed against each other, and against thee. Feeling it as important to be restored to thine image as to be reinstated in thy favor, we pray for that repentance which is unto life. Forsaking every evil way, let sin no more have dominion over us; but may we enjoy the liberty of the sons of God.

Source of spiritual strength, our hearts' desire and prayer is, that we may have the new heart and the new life which Christ requires. We therefore seek a more strong, lively, and rational faith in him; a faith which shall have an efficacy and a permanence, which shall act within us as a practical persuasion of gospel truth, and a sufficient motive to a holy life. Renew us, O Lord, in the temper of our minds, so that we may put on Christ Jesus, break down the power of earth-born passions, and walk as children of the light. May Christ be formed in us the hope of glory, and in the great duties of religion, may we think as he thought, feel as he felt, and do as he did. And since we are invited to immortality, and have an interest in every moment of the eternal future, may we, before we reach heaven, bear the image of the heavenly; and at death be prepared to join the great assembly of the just made perfect in the regions of light, purity, and joy.

But we extend our wishes beyond ourselves. We pray for our friends. May they be Christians in spirit and in deed. Give them increasing light

and knowledge; more love of sacred things, more faith and hope, more strength against temptation and sin, more purity and heavenly-mindedness, more indifference to the fleeting objects of earth, and more genuine piety. May they and we be holy as thou art holy, and continue faithful unto death. In the spirit of charity we would intercede for all orders, ages and tribes of men; but more particularly in behalf of the church; of the land in which we live; of those who rule over us; of christian ministers, schools of learning; our own neighborhood; the sorrowful and forsaken, the poor and the tempted, the widow and the fatherless, and all, in every condition, beseeching thee to do for them more and better than we can ask or even think. *

Father and Friend of man, who givest to the weak thy gracious help, be with us now; be with us through the changes of time and nature; be with us in the hour of death, and be our portion in eternity. We offer our prayer in the name of him whom thou hearest always, ascribing to thee the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER.

High and holy Lord our God, we again come *to seek* a Parent's face and a Parent's blessing.

We thank thee that thou hast made us capable of knowing, and loving, and worshipping thee; and while our being endures we would celebrate thy praise. Created in the image of thine eternity, we would consider that every Sabbath has an influence on our immortal condition. We thank thee for what our eyes have seen and our ears have heard this day; and while we rejoice in the blessings of Christianity and the advantages of public worship, we earnestly pray, that we may be equally distinguished by the purity of our faith, and the holiness of our lives. We desire to go from the church into the world, better able to resist temptation, and better prepared to discharge duty. O God, be with us on our holy days, and be with us all our days that they may all be holy. Be with us in this place, and be with us when we return to our homes, that each house may be thy temple.

Bless all worshipping assemblies. We thank thee for the assurance, that amid the multitudes who have this day met in thy courts, not one sincere and humble worshipper has been overlooked or forgotten. In the bond of christian love and hope may they be helpers of each other's joy, and journey on together to the mansions of our Father's house, into which Christ, as our Forerunner, has already entered.

God of the Sabbath, we again thank thee for the opportunities we have this day enjoyed in thy

house of prayer. Let it please thee to fulfil the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them. May we remember that this Sabbath brings us so much nearer to the time when we must give an account of all the privileges we have enjoyed or neglected; and as this may be the last one we shall see on earth, may we this night ask ourselves, if we are prepared to meet our Judge? We ask and offer all as the disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of his holy Spirit, be with us all forever. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER FOR A SCHOOL.

God of the morning, we would raise our thoughts to thee in adoration of thy perfections, and in thankful remembrance of thy goodness to the children of men. Every day and every moment affords evidence of thy greatness, the glory and the benignity of thy character. Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they were created. The heavens are thine; the earth also is thine; we ourselves are thy offspring, and we rejoice that we may address thee as our Father.

Our natural and moral powers, and all our means of happiness and improvement, are the effects of thy paternal kindness. Thou carest for all; thou blessest all. It is owing to thy protection and favor, that we behold this day, with the advantages and pleasures which accompany it. And now that we are assembled here for the acquisition of knowledge, we would commit ourselves to the direction of thy good providence. We pray for thy continued support and guidance. May we feel, as we ought, our dependence on thee; our constant and increasing obligations. May we remember that thine eye is never for a moment withdrawn from us; that thou art intimately acquainted with all that we do, with all that we say, and with all that we think. May this impression habitually influence us, and dispose us to give a right direction to all our powers.

Author of all good, let thy blessing rest upon these youths. Make them to go in the path of thy commandments. May they early acquaint themselves with thee, the God of their fathers, and have that fear of thee which is the instruction of wisdom. May they have correct sentiments of thy paternal character. Suffer them not to forget their duty to thee, who hast never forgotten to be good and merciful unto them. Suffer them not, Source of all good influences, to misuse their time, or to abuse their talents, by indulging in negligence, or in vicious and irregular

habits. Keep them in thy fear. Let them not depart from innocence and virtue. May Jesus Christ be their chosen model; and like him may they increase in wisdom as they increase in age. May they properly estimate and improve their advantages for gaining knowledge. May they be inspired with a generous and noble ardor to excel in what will make them pure, and useful, and happy. May they search for knowledge as a treasure of immense value. We pray that a meek, docile, and humble spirit may mark their principles and character, and that thou wouldst keep them from the evil of sin. By their improvement in good learning, by the correctness of their morals, and by the habitual regularity of their deportment, may they be solicitous to gratify the desires, and hopes, and expectations of their parents and friends; and especially, may they secure the approbation and acceptance of thee, their best friend and benefactor. God of truth, will it please thee to guide their feet in the way of truth and holiness, to make them instruments of much good in the world, and to prepare them all for that inheritance, which can never be lost nor impaired. Hear us through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Advocate. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER FOR A SCHOOL.

Father in heaven, we thank thee for the pleasures and blessings of the day, which is now drawing near its close. By thy care and kindness, another day has been allowed us for the pursuit of useful knowledge, and may we not be insensible of our increased obligations to love and serve thee, and to be faithful in the use of the talents which thou hast given us. If any of us have this day been careless and inconsiderate; if we have misimproved or wasted these valuable hours, we pray thee to forgive us, on our sorrow for our faults. Let us consider our ways and be wise. May the young more fully appreciate their privileges; and by reflecting with regret on the time they may have thoughtlessly thrown away, may they be excited to unwearied attention for the future. Let those who are habitually industrious, who are frugal of their time, never grow weary in this way of well doing. May these youths wisely consider, that time is a treasure, which, if lost, can never be regained; and that the present time is all, of which they can promise themselves assured possession. May they be solicitous to perform what duty requires of them, and may they consider diligent application to their studies as a duty never to be disregarded.

We thank thee, Source of wisdom and virtue, for the pleasures which are intimately associated

with the improvement of the mind and heart. May each one present deserve, and deserving, share these pleasures. And now that they are about to depart from this place, may the good instructions, that have been given this day, be carefully remembered and wisely followed. May they think seriously on the flight of time, that every day carries them nearer to the maturity of life, and to its closing scene; and may thoughts and reflections like these have a powerful influence in leading their thoughts to God, in promoting that sobermindedness and piety, which are peculiarly ornamental in early life. God of mercy, have them, we beseech thee, in thy holy keeping. May Jesus Christ be in them the hope of glory. Enlighten their understandings, strengthen their memories, sanctify their hearts, and guide their lives. May their early impressions be such, as will guard them against the allurements of vice, and against those evil communications, which corrupt the heart and vitiate the morals.

Bless, we pray thee, all teachers of youth, and may they be faithful to their solemn trust. Smile on this and on all seminaries for learning; and prosper every effort for making the world wiser and better. God of our fathers, bless the parents of these youths. Make them faithful in the watching and instruction of their offspring. May they give them such wise counsel, and set before them such virtuous examples, that their children,

by obedient lives and well-ordered conversation, may be prepared for whatever shall await them here, and finally secure thy favor which is life and thy loving-kindness which is better than life.

O thou who art always ready to pardon the penitent, forgive us that we so often disregard our duty and violate thy commands. May we be truly sorry for every thing that we have said, or thought, or done, which is offensive to thee or to those around us; and hereafter let us deviate no more from the path of kindness and wisdom. May we remember thine eye is ever upon us, and that we are all accountable to thee. Having done thy will on earth, and finished the work assigned us, may we be prepared to partake in the knowledge and felicities of the heavenly state, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MORNING PRAYER FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Our Father who art in heaven, we thank thee for preserving us to another Sabbath. Thou givest all things; thou doest all things; thou governest all things; thou knowest all we think; thou seest all we do, and thou hearest all our prayers. As the disciples of Jesus Christ we would now worship thee in spirit and in truth. Our various blessings come from thee. We are

in health, while others are sick; we are alive, while others are dead; we have food to eat and raiment to put on, while others are suffering with want. We would feel gratitude to thee for our parents and friends, for our health and strength, for the means of instruction, for the holy Bible, for the christian Sabbath, and for all the advantages of public worship. For these various methods of preparing us for heaven, Holy Father, we thank thee.

Thou hast promised that the children of thy church shall be taught of God. We now ask thy blessing upon this school. Give to the instructers the spirit of kindness, diligence, and piety, so that as fellow-workers with thee they may impart to these pupils the principles of good learning and pure religion. Bless the youths here assembled. Take them under thy peculiar care. Are any of them without parents, do thou be the Father of the fatherless; are any in need, do thou supply their wants; are any discouraged, do thou give them hope; and are any accustomed to vice, do thou reclaim them. Engage them early to love thee with all their hearts, and to be kindly affectioned one to another, remembering the holy child Jesus, who, as he increased in stature, increased also in favor with God and man. Create in them, we entreat thee, a strong thirst after religious knowledge. May they lift up their voice for understanding, and search for it as for silver, and

seek it as the most precious treasure. May they attend to their instructions at this time with inquiring minds, and consider religion as the best ornament of their age. O God, take possession of their hearts; defend them from all the snares and temptations, the pollution and defilements of the world; and let thy good spirit eradicate all sinful affections from their hearts, and sow the incorruptible seed of thy grace, that they may be partakers of thy divine nature, and bring forth in their lives the fruits of righteousness and true holiness.

Almighty God, bless the several families to which these children belong; and may every house be a house of prayer, and every heart an altar to thee.

Prepare us all for the sacred instructions of the sanctuary. While in the house of God, may we have serious minds, penitent hearts, and the spirit of true devotion; and by these services on earth may we be made fit for the higher services of thy heavenly temple, which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Almighty and eternal God, we approach thy mercy-seat in the name of him whom thou hearest always. Thine eye, that looks upon all things,

is at this moment fixed upon us. We thank thee for the instruction of another Sabbath. Let thy divine blessing follow the ministrations of the sanctuary. What gratitude ought we to feel, that thou hast made us capable of knowing, loving, and worshipping thee! Thou hast given us more understanding than the beasts of the field, and made us wiser than the fowls of the air. They know thee not; they love thee not; they cannot speak thy praises; but we can raise our thoughts to heaven, we can worship the Lord our God, we can ask thee to make us wiser and better every day, to enable us to serve thee while we live and to receive us into heaven when we die.

Eternal Father, without thy grace our wisdom is but folly, and without thy help our efforts are vain. Give divine efficacy to the religious lessons which have now been dispensed. May the instructers be encouraged by the success of their labors; and so inform the minds, amend the hearts, and cherish the best affections of their pupils, as to make them a generation to serve thee. Send down thy heavenly grace upon the hearts of these children. May they remember thee their Creator in the days of their youth, and give to thee their affections. Thou knowest how long they are to live; we earnestly pray that they may become religious children; and when they recollect that Jesus Christ came into the world to labor, and suffer, and die for them, may

his love engage them to love him in return. May they study his blessed Gospel, imbibe his divine spirit, and copy his spotless example. May they never think or say or do what Christ forbids. May they carefully shun whatever is offensive in thy sight; all wicked words and actions; whatever is profane or immodest in language; whatever is unkind or revengeful in temper, and whatever is false or deceitful in practice. Protect them, O God, from vicious companions and bad examples; rescue them from every danger; save them from every sin, and keep them from the evil there is in the world. May all remember the shortness of life, the certainty of death, and the solemnity of their final judgment.

Lord of life, as we are now to separate, we ask thy protection. Before we go to rest this night may we give up our souls to thee in prayer, and do thou refresh us for the duties of the coming day; and may we all live as we shall wish we had done when we come to die. We offer our prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer, ascribing to thee all glory forever. Amen.

FUNERAL PRAYER.

O thou who livest while mortals die, who alone possessest independent immortality; eternal God,

we bow before thee as the sovereign Disposer of all events. It is our comfort amid the continual changes of this our uncertain existence, that we can lean on thee who art the same forever. Without thy permission not a sparrow falls to the ground; and all the anguish of our souls is known to thee. How often in the death of friends do we hear thee saying, 'Arise and depart, for this is not your rest.' While we adore the power which formed man of the dust, we are now called to bow before the wisdom which decreed that unto dust he shall return.

— With christian sympathy we mingle our tears with the afflicted; and while this house has become one of mourning, may it be a school of wisdom and resignation. Let this bereavement lead us to consider how frail we are. We all do fade as a leaf; our flesh is but grass, and our age is nothing before thee. Lord, what is our life? a vapor that appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away. Thou hast taught us by reason, by experience, and by revelation, that our life on earth is a pilgrimage, a state of trial and preparation. This is but the road which conducts to a higher destination. Here we cannot do and become all that we are capable of doing and becoming. Thou hast reserved a future state of action as the scene to develope our immortal energies. Here we can enjoy no pure satisfaction, no unmingled bliss. Here all is sub-

ject to inconstancy and death. Here we have no abiding city, no secured possession, no enduring rest. Here all is rather means than ends, rather sowing than reaping, rather preparation than enjoyment, rather commencement than completion. Here, O Father, thou hast placed us at school, and we are schooling for eternity.

What an alleviation for all our sorrows hast thou given us in the gospel of thy Son! adored be thy name for his victory over death, by which we receive the lively hope of immortality. Everlasting thanks be to thee, that death could not retain the Saviour, but that a power stronger than death, a power higher than nature, raised him from the tomb, thereby establishing our hope. Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God. Glory be to thee in the highest, that life and immortality are brought to light, and that we are assured that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Compassionate Father, what thanks should we give thee, that this world is not our final state! By christian faith we see new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness; we see these bodies of ours changed and fashioned like the Saviour's own glorious body; we see the darkness of the grave retiring before the light of eternal day, and we hear Jesus saying, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

We fervently pray, that these christian consolations and hopes may come with all their needed power to the hearts of thy servants, who now mourn the loss of a near relative by death. Sanctify this bereavement to each one of them; and give them that composure of spirit which shall enable them to receive the comforts of our holy religion. While they remember that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve thy children, may they believe that thy dispensations are wise and kind; kind even when they seem severe. May they repair to thee their almighty Refuge, and rest themselves on thee, the Rock of ages; and be disposed to say, 'Not our will, but thine be done: the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken way, blessed be the name of the Lord.' The more they are brought to perceive that things seen are temporal, the more firmly may they trust that things unseen are eternal. Believing that thou knowest when it is best to call thy children to thyself, may they be assured that thou art gracious, that Christ is faithful, and that heaven and not earth is their home. May they embrace the promises and be thankful; may they know that thou art God, and be still. *

— Father of mercies, thou art a present help in time of need, a shelter in the hour of trouble; sanctify this death to those here assembled, to this neighborhood and to the church of Christ. *Thou layest* affliction on those whom thou lovest.

How should we rejoice, that there is a light which reaches the soul in this dark world, the light of redeeming love! We have a refuge to flee to; an arm to lean on. Thou, O God, art our light in darkness, and our life in death. O may ours be the Christian's trust and hope, enabling us to resign without a murmur the objects of our affection, assured that though lost to us, they live to thee. With a willing and humble submission we would bow to thine appointment, knowing it is thy purpose to heal and bless. May the friends who are gone bring us nearer to thee; and do thou give us wisdom to secure an interest in a better world before we are removed from this. Spare us, O Lord most holy; sustain us, O God most mighty, and suffer us not to fall from thee. As our days here are vanishing as a shadow, and there is but a step between us and death, may we not boast ourselves of to-morrow, nor look forward to a more convenient season for repentance. May we connect every thing here with every thing hereafter. May we feel that we pursue life under the government and protection of an almighty Benefactor, and that all thy dealings aim at our happiness. O grant that we may finish well the work thou hast sent each one of us to do; and being faithful unto death may we receive the crown of life.

God of the spirits of all flesh, we would now commit this body to the ground; earth to earth,

ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the life of the world to come through our risen Redeemer. And when our turn shall arrive to enter this house appointed for all the living, may we have in our mouths the triumphant song of the Christian, O death! where is thy sting? O grave! where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Unchangeable God, while we witness that the glory of man passeth away, we feel the value of the assurance, that thy word shall never pass away. We ask the continuance of life so long as life can be useful, referring our interests here and hereafter to thy disposal, believing that thou art all wisdom in thyself and all goodness towards thy creatures. With hearts fixed and stayed upon thee, may we be prepared to meet any event of thy providence with devout composure; and, above all, may we have the lamp of religion within us trimmed and burning, so that when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality, then we may hear from the Saviour the welcome invitation, 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

In his name, who wept that we might rejoice, who died that we might live, who is the resurrection and the life, we offer this our prayer, ascribing to thee all glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

LOVE OF GOD: CHRISTIAN WORSHIP.

God of the Sabbath, with ready devotion my soul meets the return of the morning; and I would begin the day with praise to thee who hast made me to sleep in safety. Blessed be thy name for this sacred season. Feeling the value of a day which calls off my mind from the transitory objects of earth to the durable things of eternity, I rejoice that another Sabbath invites me to religious contemplations. In the name of Him, whose glorious rising these hours commemorate, I would draw near to thee not only with my lips but with my heart, worshipping thee in spirit and in truth.

O Thou who art love and dwellest in love, enable me to feel more deeply this heavenly principle. Let thy mercies draw my whole soul to affection and thankfulness. Thou hast implanted in my spirit a need of thy truth and a need of thyself; and, glory be to thy name, thou hast taught me thy truth and taught me thyself. As a knowledge of thee is required for the full developement of my nature, how do I rejoice that thou hast opened to me the great sources of intellectual advancement and moral happiness; and then

crowned thy gifts with the promise of immortality! How divine are thy works; how inspiring is thy word! What thanks, what ardent thanks would I give thee for the sacred gospel, so majestic in its simplicity, sublime in its doctrines, glorious in its objects, astonishing in its effects, immortal in its rewards! Not that we loved thee, but that thou didst love us and didst send thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. O God, may these mercies move my heart to return to thee the offering of a reasonable faith, a lively gratitude, a cheerful trust, and a christian love. As thou art my Father may I be indeed a child of God. May I be pure, in my manner and measure, as thou art pure, holy as thou art holy, and perfect as thou art perfect, thus proving my love of thee by conforming to thine image. May I be continually feeling after thee, so that I may everywhere find thee. I desire to know more of thy character and to do more of thy will. I would see thee in the mission and works of Jesus Christ, and in the attributes of the human soul. Help me to understand what thou art and what I am. May thy care for the soul of man, lead me to an apprehension of its infinite value. Thou hast sent holy men and prophets, that they should speak to it; and at last thy Son, that he should instruct and sanctify and save it. May I show my gratitude for a Saviour, in becoming his devoted follower. O help me to imbibe his spirit of love, to adopt his principles of

obedience, and to walk in that path which is illumined by his footsteps.

Holy Father, as thou hast made me for truth, happiness, and immortality, do thou take off my eyes from beholding vanity: let me not love this world so much and thee so little; cure me of those desires which grasp at a shadow; and instead of the short-lived pleasures of time may I seek the durable joys of eternity. My earnest prayer to thee is, that amid the duties and events, the prosperities and sorrows of life, my will may ever be subject to thy will, and that I may think, act and suffer, as seeing thee who art invisible. O grant that my advancement in the graces of the christian character may be continued to the end of my pilgrimage, and then being presented before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy, may I see thee without obscurity, approach thee without sin, serve thee without imperfection, and enjoy thee without end.

O Thou who hearest prayer, do thou bless all worshipping assemblies this day. May thy ministers preach Christ and him crucified, and may all men come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. May the love of thee and the love of man become the ruling principles of the human soul; and thus may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I would especially intercede for the heathen, beseeching thee to hasten the time, when in Jesus

Christ the hungry everywhere shall find the bread that come down from heaven, and the thirsty the pure waters of life; when the naked shall be clothed with the garments of salvation, and the prisoner visited with the liberty wherewith Christ makes his disciples free.

Merciful Parent, go with me to thy house, and let my heart this day be so touched by the holy influences of religion that my character shall be more formed by its heavenly spirit, and my life more governed by its sacred laws.

In the name of Jesus Christ I offer these my supplications, and in his own words conclude them: Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

LOVE OF MAN.

Our Father who art in heaven, I would give thee most humble and hearty thanks for enabling me to meet my fellow Christians in thy house of prayer; and it fills my soul with inexpressible joy that among the ten thousands who have united to celebrate thy perfections, and implore thy mercy, not one sincere and grateful worshipper is overlooked or forgotten. O Thou who seest in secret, I have retired to my closet that I may thank thee for what my eyes have seen and

my ears have heard this day. Grant that from this hour I may have a new relish for heavenly truth, new strength in holy purposes and new zeal in the christian cause. From this moment let my prejudices yield to the power of the gospel, my ears be more open to religious counsel, my heart burn with a purer devotion and my lips be tuned to a nobler praise.

At this time I would especially pray, that the great law of brotherly love may be brought to a fuller and deeper action within me. I would have it resemble as far as possible thine ever active beneficence; and while it is all my desire to be a fellow worker with thee in making thy creatures happy, grant me the intelligence to plan and the power to execute, which I so much need. I would render thee continual thanks for the example of my blessed Saviour. May the remembrance of his becoming poor that we might be rich, make me ashamed of my selfishness, and his dying that we might live, constrain me to live for immortality. O may the thought of his going about doing good, pour the breath of life into my dormant affections. Whatever else I forget may I remember this, that the best expression of my love to thee is kindness and usefulness to thy creatures. Fill my soul, I pray thee, with the true love of man; that love which Jesus felt on earth and feels now; that love which shall lead me to promote the improvement of those around

me as I promote my own; that love which shall stimulate me to every worthy acquisition in order that others may be moved by my example. Animated by this spirit, which is the spirit of heaven, may its law be ever breathed from my lips, and its energy be always visible in my life. At home and abroad may I be prompt to aid the helpless and administer to the sick, to cheer the desponding, and comfort the afflicted. May I be vigilant to prevent the unhappiness which comes from the anger and unfaithfulness, the infirmities and follies of those around me. Amidst the dangers and crosses of life, may I so meditate on thy forbearance and long suffering, that I may be moulded to thine image. Thus cherishing in my heart a fervent christian charity for all mankind, may every rising circumstance of life afford exercise to an upright, peaceful, generous and sympathetic spirit. Having thus obeyed the new commandment of Christ, may I be fitted for that pure and happy family above, where joy and kindness shall reign forever.

Again I thank thee, holy Father, for the blessings of the Sabbath. Let me not judge of my advancement in religion by the time I devote to its services, but by the happy change they produce in my temper and conduct.

Searcher of hearts, in the silence of this hour's retirement, and under the solemnities of my present devotion I now sacredly dedicate myself to

thee. Do thou accept the consecration, and give me strength to fulfil my vows.

I would retire to rest cherishing good will towards all mankind. I ask thy fatherly protection. May the shades which encompass me be as the shadow of thy wings. Let all my nights on earth be hallowed by thy blessing, and all my days devoted to thy service.

I pray thee also to protect the whole sleeping world through the hours of darkness; and graciously be with those, who, by land or sea, must wake and watch.

Indulgent God, hear my prayer through him who gave himself for us, through whom to thee be praise forever. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

DUTIES OF LIFE.

Giver of every temporal and spiritual good, merciful God, to that throne from which none were ever repulsed, I now come for grace to help in time of need. Refreshed in body by repose, and invigorated in mind by the services of the Sabbath, may I enter upon this new term of duty more sensible of the nature and importance of that great work thou hast sent me here to do. Enable me to strengthen my character by increasing faithfulness, and through life to maintain a conscience

void of offence towards thee and towards all men. O may the diligence and zeal of Jesus in doing his work, stimulate me this day and every day. May I learn of him to guard against the temptations which would divert me from a holy, temperate and useful course. Thou, O God, knowest the snares which beset, and the new dangers which threaten me, do thou prepare me to meet and aid me to overcome them. In thee is my strength and hope, amid the unseen and untried future. Watchful and circumspect I would enter on another week of labor, praying that I may proceed in every employment with modesty, ardor and prudence. May I never act when I can suspect the purity of my motive; and never undertake what I cannot ask thee to prosper. If any occurrence shall arise to darken or ruffle my spirits, O help me to possess my soul in patience. Under provocations from men, may I be able to preserve the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Under the pressure of cares, the failure of plans and the disappointment of hopes, grant me to retain my integrity, persuaded that all things are governed by unerring wisdom and paternal love. Let no prospect of gain ever prevail over the suggestions of reason, and the decisions of conscience. I would be pure, kind, honorable and firm, whatever be the maxims of the multitude around me. Give me understanding to perceive *falsehood*, and courage to withstand it. In the

hours of business and in those of relaxation, assist me to guard against those circumstances which irritate the passions, and corrupt the mind. Against every excess may I religiously protect myself, while I exhibit that decorum and self-command, which evince that I wear the christian armor. Above all, I earnestly pray that I may think, act, and endure, as seeing thee who art invisible; and with this defence may I meet without harm the temptations of life, and pass through its trying scenes without making shipwreck of faith and a good conscience. Thus may I finish my course with joy, and lay hold of that crown of righteousness which he, who overcame the world, has promised to his faithful followers.

Holy Father, let me now go forth to my employments with thy blessing on my head, and do thou aid, protect, and sanctify me through Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

HUMILITY.

High and holy Lord our God, I desire to approach thee with just conceptions of thy character. Thou inhabitest eternity, but my age is as nothing in thy sight. The heaven of heavens cannot contain thee, but I dwell in a house of

clay whose foundation is the dust. Thy power is almighty, but I am crushed before the moth. Thy understanding is infinite, but I know not what a day will bring forth. I believe thine eye is this moment upon me. Searcher of hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ I come a penitent seeker of thy mercy; and in the calmness of this hour I would examine myself before thee, and pray for that humility required in the disciple of the meek and lowly Saviour.

In the presence of infinite purity I am reminded of my sins. I have been to thee an unprofitable servant. When I consider the wrong motives which have sometimes actuated my feelings, and the questionable rules which have governed my life; above all, when I compare what I am with what I ought to be, I am filled with shame and confusion, and am ready to throw myself on thine infinite grace, crying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Source of strength, I now ask for that humbleness of mind resulting from a just acquaintance with thee and with myself. While I see its connexion with penitence and piety, may I also see its connexion with gratitude and goodness. Thy gifts demand a thankful heart, and thy goodness should lead me to repentance. Let them divest me of pride and clothe me with humility. When I reflect that my Saviour was rich, but for our sakes became poor, that he

humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross, giving himself the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to thee, then I feel my infinite obligations, and earnestly pray, that my views of excellence may be more lofty and distinct, my conceptions of duty more noble and christian, and that hereafter I may rise to that model of perfection which appeared in my spotless Master. While the proud are boasting over their fellow men, may I banish every vain-glorious comparison, and regard myself as in the presence of Christ, our great Example. While others seek for outward adornings, let me covet the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. O save me from the delusion of pride and self flattery, and enable me in meekness and in fear to think of myself as I ought to think. May I become more studious to deserve praise than to seek it, preferring the honor that comes from God. Let success, instead of leading me proudly to myself, lead me humbly and gratefully to thee. I pray that I may never in haughty and arrogant self-love refuse to others the honor and preeminence which belong to them; but, like my blessed Saviour washing his disciples' feet, may I be ready to perform every office which truth, humanity and usefulness demand. Enable me to turn away wrath in others by the soft and winning words in which I answer it; and if offences must come from the ungenerous and unfeeling, let me endure

them with the patient and forgiving temper of Christ. O God, impart to me that humility which dwells with true greatness, so that they who know me the most intimately may have reason to love me the most sincerely; and at last in the humbleness of a little child may I enter the kingdom of heaven.

Gracious God, hear my prayer for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus, through whom to thee be glory everlasting. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

PROTECTION AGAINST ERRORS AND EVILS.

O thou who seest in secret, compassionate Father, I thank thee, that in every thing by prayer and supplication thou hast allowed me to make known my requests unto thee. In the name of Jesus Christ I draw near to thy mercy's seat, beseeching thy protection amidst the evils and exposures of life.

Preserve me, O God, from error in my religious principles. Let me not be carried about by every wind of doctrine, but holding fast the truth as it is in Jesus, may I remain steadfast and immovable under the guidance of thy spirit and the teachings of thy word. Whenever more truth shall break forth upon me from thy gospel,

may I receive it in love, profess it with joy, and obey it with fidelity.

Preserve me from rash and uncharitable judgments on those who differ from me. Let me acknowledge the rights of others as promptly as I claim my own. While I firmly assert and fully exercise my just freedom of thought, let me abhor and oppose all usurped dominion over the faith and consciences of my fellow men.

Preserve me from temptations too powerful for my virtue. Rescue me from the assaults of every spiritual enemy. Whenever passion rises in its dangerous strength, do thou be near to me. Never leave me to myself, O Lord, never forsake me. May I put on the whole christian armor, and do thou enable me to come off more than conqueror through Jesus Christ, the captain of my salvation.

O Thou who givest strength to the weak, I implore protection against every intemperate disposition and habit. Let not the table or the cup ever become a snare to me. Let my appetites be confined to the important uses for which they were implanted. O give me to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and to account it my meat and drink to do thy will. Enable me to lay aside the sin which most easily besets me, and to deny all worldly lusts. Teach me to live soberly, and to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

If I must meet provocation and injury, I ask for his spirit, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again, and when he was mocked, did neither cry nor strive. May I bless those who curse me, and give place to their wrath; for vengeance, O Lord, is thine. I implore thy forgiving love on those who refuse me justice and mercy, desiring to overcome their evil with good.

Almighty God, defend me from every unclean thought, unlawful design, and turbulent action. May I never let the sun go down upon my wrath. Free my heart of envy, hatred, malice, pride, and discontent. O let my body be always subject to my soul, my senses to my reason, and my reason to thy gracious instruction; so that outwardly and inwardly I may be fully disposed to do thy will. My heart's desire and prayer is, that I may adorn with thy moral perfections the spiritual nature thou hast given me, and thus retain thy divine image in my soul.

Let it please thee, Source of all power, to answer, by a message of strength, these my earnest supplications through him who died to deliver me from this present evil world, while I ascribe to thee all honor and glory forever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

GRATITUDE FOR SPIRITUAL MERCIES.

Adorable Creator, thou hast made me in thine image and for thy service, and hast bound me to thyself forever by my nature and my hopes. I would now come to thank thee for the power of pursuing truth and the means of attaining happiness. Joy and gratitude are on the altar of my heart, and in the name of my Redeemer I would offer them to thee.

While I am comforted by various earthly blessings, I am reminded that I need something higher than the earth can give—an interest in thy love and a hope full of immortality. Eternal Fountain of light and truth, I will take the cup of salvation and call on thy name with emotions of religious wonder and devout thanksgiving, since from thee I have received all I possess, and to thee can look for all I desire.

I thank thee that the sacred scriptures have been preserved, translated and spread abroad, so that I can read in my own language the record of thy wonderful works. Thou hast never left thyself without witness; and I would now thank thee for the various disclosures of thyself through successive ages. I thank thee for the establishment of the Jewish church, and for all its resistance to surrounding idolatry. I thank thee for

holy prophets who declared thy will, and for good men who obeyed it, thus giving ardor to virtue, and confidence to truth. These mercies have been mercies to me, and may they touch the springs of pious gratitude. In my journey through life, let me thank thee for every comfort on the way; for the manna and the rock, for the tabernacle and the ark, for the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

Above all, I would render thee everlasting thanks for the full, free and blessed salvation of the gospel. But what thanks can equal its heavenly blessings? In this gospel I am assured that thy spirit is the dwellingplace of pity, and thy thoughts towards man are thoughts of peace. Here I see thee waiting to be gracious, and exalted to have mercy. Here I see pardon for the guilty conscience, sanctification for the rebellious heart, and rest for the weary soul. How wise and how merciful are the conditions of acceptance! O what thanks should I return thee for thus inviting me to eat of that bread which came down from heaven, and to take of the water of life freely without money and without price! How rich is thy mercy, how paternal is thy care! Not only the doctrine but the example of thy Son speaks to my heart. His life, reflecting thy spirit from above, has shed radiance on the path of duty, on the gloom of affliction and on the bed of death. From him I learn thy will, and from him

learn how to conform to it. Through the riches of thy grace I have in him a guide who is the way, a teacher who is the truth, and a Saviour who is the life. He has come to abolish the sorrows of ignorance and sin, and to establish a kingdom of righteousness and peace. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, for the dayspring from on high hath visited us. O God, what return shall I make for thy spiritual bounties? Sorrowing deeply that I have valued them no more in time past, I would ardently implore, that as thy light has risen upon me, the day may dawn and the daystar of religion rise in my heart, and I become in truth a disciple of him who is the light of the world. And being allowed to rejoice in the result of his labors and sufferings, his death and resurrection, I now sacredly bow my knees in fervent gratitude to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and, in view of all thy spiritual blessings, do offer this petition, that neither death nor life, neither angels, principalities nor powers, neither things present, nor things to come, neither height nor depth nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Hear me, Holy Father, answer and forgive, and to thy name shall be glory evermore. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

FAITH.

High and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, come to thee believing that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of those who diligently seek thee. I am not left to feel after thee in the darkness of nature, or to worship thee as the unknown God, but I can approach thee in the full assurance of faith in him who came to show us the Father.

Earnestly and devoutly would I pray for more clear and comprehensive views of thy character and will. May the numberless effects of intelligence and power, through every part of the great system of nature, lead me to adore thee as the first and universal cause. But thy goodness, O God, how great and diffusive! Communications of love are scattered through thy world; and the various ranks of being testify, that thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Without this goodness, I cannot exist or be happy. Wherever I turn, O grant that I shall see it as an object of veneration, gratitude and trust. Above all, let me feel the value of that love which sent thine only begotten Son to seek and to save that which was lost. If thou didst not spare him, thou wilt surely withhold from us no good thing.

And now I pray for a still purer faith, for a

firmer confidence, a deeper veneration and a warmer love. O let me never forget that I cannot expect the happiness which is with thee unless I am holy like thee. As a reasonable service I dedicate myself to thee cheerfully without delay and fully without reserve. May I be now and forever thine; truly a child of God.

Heavenly Father, I would also seek a livelier faith in Christ my Saviour. I would receive him with my whole heart. Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief. Permit me to see him as thy representative, bearing the act and message of pardon and acceptance from thy throne of mercy. He has declared to us the truth concerning thy moral government, and showed us how to obtain and preserve thine image in our souls. O grant that I may receive the kingdom of God as a little child.

I would also seek increasing faith in human nature as an emanation from thee, the supreme divinity. Regarding it as thy noblest work on earth, may I see its likeness to its great author, and strive to preserve for it, amid the discipline of life, the purity it brought from thy hands.

In seeking a stronger and a purer faith may I remember, that faith without works is dead. My continual desire is, that my faith may lead to a new life of humility, holiness and devotion. O may it impart more decision to my character, more vigor to my purposes, more elevation to my

hopes, more fervor to my prayers and more action to my zeal. Never let me substitute speculative opinions and outward forms for that piety which reaches to thee, and for that benevolence which goes about doing good; but, believing may I profess and professing may I practice; and thus, in every office and relation of life, may I show the loveliness, purity and power of religion.

Hear my prayer, O God, and answer me for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus, through whom I would ascribe to thee praise forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

REPENTANCE.

Merciful God, thee would I adore as the omniscient and omnipresent One. Thou hast been about my path this day and every day. Thou art acquainted with all my ways. Thou understandest my thoughts afar off. Examining myself in thy sight, I find ample cause for humiliation and sorrow. Forbid that I should ever confess sins which I do not feel, or retain those I confess. But, righteous God, when I consider what thou hast made me capable of becoming, and then recollect what I am; when I consider what thou hast made me capable of doing, and then recollect how little I have done, I am justly filled with shame and confusion of face. A broken and contrite spirit

becomes me. I would at this time fix my repentant thoughts on the sin that most easily besets me. This trespass has gone up unto the very heavens. O God, my hope is in thy mercy through a Redeemer. In his name I pray that this confession of sin may lead me so to feel it that I shall forsake it. May self-condemnation create true repentance, and I become restored to thine image and favor. I would flee to the refuge of the gospel; I would wash in that fountain and build on that foundation.

Searcher of hearts, help me to examine the inmost recesses of my soul, and to bring forth every defilement therein concealed. O God, convince me of sin. Wherein I have failed to illustrate my faith or employ my talents, to improve my condition or benefit my fellow men, do thou rouse me from this spiritual slumber and teach me the true ends of my being. Let the mists of error be dispersed that I may see thy salvation, and the fetters of sin be broken that I may enjoy the liberty of the sons of God. If I have repeatedly fallen into sin, or weakly yielded to temptation; if I have been angry without cause and beyond bounds; if I have been uncharitable, unjust, undutiful or unkind; if I have thus broken thy laws, abused thy patience and grieved thy holy spirit, do thou, who art waiting to be gracious, still keep compassion for me. I would repent in dust and ashes. I would throw myself

on thine infinite grace: God be merciful to me a sinner. Indulgent Father, I would intercede for those who are struggling against their sins. May thy strength be made perfect in their weakness. If they have rebelled against thy government or rejected the offers of thy law; if they have despised the admonitions of thy providence or the calls of thy gospel, show them I pray thee their wickedness, so that grace may reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ.

O thou who canst quicken even the dead, do thou rouse the careless sinner from his sleep that Christ may give him light.

Again I implore for myself thy divine grace. O help me to exercise that repentance which is unto life, so that I may experience the everlasting comforts of thy pardoning love in Jesus Christ my Saviour, through whom to thee be honor and thanks forever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

OBEDIENCE.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who lovest righteousness and lookest with favor on the upright, I would not go forth to the duties of this or any other day, without raising my soul to thee in prayer for guidance and help. I come in the

name of my blessed Saviour to seek a Parent's face and a Parent's blessing.

I would this morning especially pray, that the great principle of christian obedience in all its forms may be newly impressed on my spirit. May I see it as it stands connected with thy character and providence, with my own nature and condition, and with the laws and promises of the gospel. O may the love of thee and the love of my fellow-men be so imbedded in my soul, that obedience to these divine principles shall become the spontaneous dictate of my heart. And may I consider such obedience as the only proof of my faith and my sincerity. As righteousness is the end of the law and love the end of the gospel, may I view these as representations of thy character, knowing they are the requirements of thy will. O God, as a child of thee I desire to be pure as thou art pure, holy as thou art holy, perfect as thou art perfect, thus reflecting thine image here below, and desiring thus to reflect it forever. Mercifully grant that all my wishes, views, and efforts, may centre in what thou requirest. To this end, give me the spirit of industry in my thoughts and actions. May every day and every place be hallowed by my devotedness to truth and duty. While many are asking, what they shall eat and what they shall drink, let my inquiry be, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Knowing that opportunities are talents, let

me not waste any one of them, but may I be earnest in spirit and never weary in well doing.

Convinced that there can be no happiness or preparation for heaven without compliance with the gospel of Christ, I now earnestly pray, that my heart may be touched by its holy influence, my character formed by its heavenly spirit, and my life governed by its perfect law. Refusing to seek another shelter, or build on another foundation, may Christ be my sufficient refuge and my strong support. O let me become so interested in the blessings of his salvation that there shall be a real and living union between his soul and mine. Let me so contemplate the holiness of his character and the divinity of his mission, that my heart shall burn within me to treasure up his words and copy his example. While he is representing me in heaven may I represent him on earth, assured that unless I have his spirit I am none of his.

God of goodness and of strength, go with me through life. I dedicate myself to thee, submitting my ways to thy guidance and my interests here and hereafter to thy disposal. I make it my earnest prayer, that all my plans, motives and sufferings, may be referred to thee. May I have thee always within my mind, do all my works in thy name and bear all calamities as thy discipline. In my enjoyments may I be temperate, in my *conduct* exemplary and in my good purposes im-

movable. Enable me to exhibit purity in all my words, prudence in all my plans, honesty in all my dealings, and kindness in all my relations. Give me courage in danger, fortitude in trial, resignation in adversity, and in prosperity an humble mind. Above all, give me earnestness in imploring thy grace, strength in keeping thy commands, and zeal in working out my salvation. Thus O God, in the way of heaven may I never halt, never look back, never turn to the right hand or to the left, but pressing forward to those things that are before, may my path be that of the just which shines brighter and brighter to the perfect day.

And to thee, O God, only wise, shall be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

SUCCESS OF BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

O Thou that hearest prayer, through him, who is the great Intercessor, let my prayer come before thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Thou hast revealed thyself in every character and relation, which can suit human necessities or encourage human hope. Thou condescendest to regard the things done on the earth, and to bless each fellow-worker with thee in the cause of beneficence.

I now come to awaken a holier zeal in my heart

by invoking thy smiles on every effort for increasing the temporal comfort, the social order, and the religious progress of society. As a member of thy great family may I feel a lively interest in whatever can affect it.

Fountain of light and hope, with devout earnestness I would implore thee to bless those societies by which the Bible may be given to the destitute and ignorant in our own land, and by which the glad tidings of salvation may be proclaimed to the heathen. Preserve the lives and increase the zeal of those who go forth to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Give eloquence to their lips, and the spirit of self-sacrifice to their hearts, and wherever Paul plants and Apollos waters, do thou give the abundant increase.

Regard all christian churches. May they so advance in soundness of doctrine, liberality of discipline and sanctity of life, that the church below shall resemble that above.

O Lord, rejoicing in thy promise that all the children of thy church shall be taught of God, I ask thy blessing on Sabbath schools. As the infant spirit bears the image of purity from thee, and thy word assures us that of such is the kingdom of heaven, I would earnestly pray, that the seeds of divine truth may be wisely sown in the minds of the young. May teachers feel the *solemn* responsibilities of their sacred office, and

may they so bring the souls of children to Christ, and so preserve thine image within them, that they shall continue thine forever.

Thou author of peace, and lover of concord, let it please thee to befriend the efforts making for the extermination of war in all its forms. O hasten the time when the lusts and passions of men shall be subdued to the dominion of the gospel, and the children of thy great family shall love one another as Christ loved us all.

I pray thee, compassionate Father, to strengthen the hands that would arrest the progress of intemperance in the world. Let men no longer turn to the service of corruption and misery, those noble powers which were made for knowledge, liberty, holiness and heaven. May the prodigal arise and return to his Father, that the morally dead may be alive again, and the lost may be found.

Finally, O God, I seek thy smiles on all institutions for promoting public or private welfare. Graciously bless our families, our schools, and colleges, our nation and its rulers. O grant that profound science, public and domestic order, civil and religious freedom, pure and enlightened religion may be the stability and glory of our times. May thy kingdom of truth, righteousness and peace come, and the heavens and the earth be filled with thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father who art in heaven, of whom and for whom and by whom are all things, how grateful should I feel that in seeking thee I seek the face and favor of a wise and good Parent. Thou art the light of every heart that sees thee, the strength of every mind that knows thee, and the life of every soul that loves thee. Hallowed be thy name. I would manifest my reverence for thy perfections, by seeing and knowing and loving thee as I ought; and do thou engage my whole soul to worship thee in spirit and in truth, and to honor thee in life and in death.

May thy kingdom come. May christian faith, holiness, and hope, spread through the nations, and all thy children own their allegiance and rejoice in thy Son. O let error lose its sway and vice its power, and let men bring every thought into subjection to the principles of truth, freedom, and peace. Thus may thy will be done by thy family below, as it is done by the angels who compose thy family above.

Giver of all good, thy word allows me to pray for temporal blessings; yet I would not ask for uninterrupted prosperity, or dangerous riches, or seducing honors, but that thou wouldst this day and every day feed me with food convenient for

me. So far as to thy wisdom it may seem best, let my state on earth be comfortable and my days tranquil and easy. Shield me from frequent and extreme distress. Let the enjoyment of those relatives and friends the most dear to me be still continued, and when thou shalt see fit to withdraw them, graciously support me under the loss, and grant that all events may be rendered subservient to my progress in piety, wisdom, and virtue.

God of compassion, forgive my offences as I also forgive them who wrong me. Being merciful to others may I find thy mercy; and may it be my joy to present this request with that forgiving temper towards those who have offended me, which thou requirest of all them who would obtain thy pardon. I would continually mourn over my sins with a godly sorrow; and feeling it as important to be restored to thine image as to be reinstated in thy favor, I pray for that repentance which is unto life.

God of strength, bring me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil. Subject me not to trials through which I cannot pass unharmed. May the circumstances of life be no longer the occasions of sin, but the sources of improvement. Never leave me, O Father, never forsake me. Let pride, envy, and sloth, let hypocrisy, unkindness, and lust, be put far from me, while my temper and habits become those of thy kingdom.

God of my spirit, my time here is short. May I set that value on my soul which thou hast put upon it by creation and redemption. Coming from thee at first, and destined to return to thee at last, may I consider its dignity and durability, and resolve to secure its salvation, whatever present pleasures are to be resigned, or whatever temporal sufferings are to be endured. And having, through thy assisting grace, discharged the duties of life with uprightness and sincerity, may I be prepared to meet its last closing scene without sorrow or dismay. After a tranquil exit from this world, may I find myself, through thine infinite mercy in a Redeemer, in those mansions of everlasting rest and peace which my Saviour has gone to prepare for his faithful followers; and there, with a purer worship than belongs to earth, may I ascribe to thee the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

AN INTEREST IN GOD AND TRUTH.

Father of mercies and God of all grace, by the return of this hour of devotion, thou hast again said, 'Seek ye my face;' and my heart would answer, 'Thy face Lord will I seek.' But how deeply do I lament that I have known so little of *thee*, and have wandered so far from thy truth

How faint are my impressions of thy greatness and glory! Thou hast presented to my view the vast frame of nature as a standing monument, a perpetual remembrancer of thy creating power, thy infinite wisdom, and eternal goodness. Thou hast made me capable of contemplating the wonderful fabric of the heavens, their august magnificence, immeasurable extent and beneficial influences. Thou hast hereby given me a lively representation and an unquestionable demonstration of thy boundless immensity and diffusive love. Thou hast placed me where I see thy power and munificence perpetually employed in raising up, supporting and blessing innumerable families of thy creatures around me. To me thou hast given an organized body bearing evident marks of divine wisdom and kind intention in every part of it. In this body thou hast placed, as the truest image and surest proof of thyself, a rational, thinking principle, capable of endless improvement in knowledge and in virtue. O God, to these thy works, thou hast added thy word, containing the clearest discoveries of thy will, and the express command for us to love, and fear, and serve thee. But, alas! all these striking manifestations of thyself, have made but feeble and transient impressions on my heart. It is this that I mourn. I have been slumbering over the proofs of thy care and bounty. The superficial, transitory pleasures, the uncertain riches and

the fading honors of this vain world, employ my understanding, strike my imagination, and captivate my heart, whilst thy perfect excellence, unbounded goodness, and eternal providence, are strangely disregarded, or thought of by me with cold indifference.

O Thou who canst cause even the dead to come forth, do thou arouse me from this spiritual lethargy. Let me no longer be hardened and blinded. Look in tender compassion on thy frail and forgetful child, who turns to thee with a sorrowing and penitent heart. O give me henceforth such clear and affecting views of thy glory and excellence, as shall kindle within me a flame of love that can never be extinguished. Penetrate my heart with such a realizing sense of thy goodness, as shall stir up my whole soul to praise and bless thy holy name forever and ever.

Gracious God, I would further pray, for a more enlarged love of my fellow men. Subdue the workings of proud and selfish passions; and while I strive to cherish my Saviour's sympathy, may I feel a perpetual flow of good will towards all around me.

I pray for a deeper interest in thy truth. O help me to see the divinity that beams from thy works, and to feel the inspiration that flows from thy word. It is the consolation and support of my mind amidst the sorrows of sin, and the terrors of judgment, that thou hast sent thv Son to

be a Saviour of the penitent. My heart's desire and prayer is, that he may be a Saviour to me, and that I may honor him by my lips and life. O help me to resemble him in his amiable dispositions, his holy zeal, his humility firmness and benevolence; and, like him, enable me to bear the sorrows of earth in hope of the joys which shall never change. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; and thine shall be the glory forever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

RIGHT USE OF MEANS.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. I would record thy loving kindness, O God, showed to me in my creation, preservation, and the various comforts of this life. Thou hast given me the powers of reason, and the means of education; thou hast given me Christianity with its doctrines and hopes; thou hast given me the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper; and by reading, meditation and prayer, thou hast enabled me to know and use these means of grace. With renewed earnestness I would now pray, that each one of them may be so valued by me that I shall lose no opportunity or power for advancing myself in knowledge, holiness, and piety. My time and

talents are from thee; to thee I would devote them.

O Thou who didst command light to shine out of darkness, irradiate my mind with all useful truth, that I may employ my reason well in pursuing the great objects of existence. I would lift up my voice for understanding and search for it as for hidden treasures, that I might find out wisdom and the fear of thee. Give me a modest, calm, and teachable spirit. Let me look on ignorance as the soul's nakedness and shame; and on the corruption of my principles as my highest infelicity. I earnestly desire to see divine things in the light thou hast imparted to them; and while they inform my judgment may they sanctify my heart.

Aid me, Holy Father, in the use of every christian means. As the disciple of a dying Saviour may I die unto sin; as the disciple of a risen Redeemer may I walk in newness of life; and as the disciple of an ascended Intercessor may I set my affections on things above. O let my soul cleave to the gospel as the consecrated means of its spiritual prosperity. May Christ be very precious to me. Let his glory fill my mind and his love reign in my heart; and at his cross and at his tomb may I burn with new ardor to live to him who died for me.

I thank thee for the table of the Lord; and with the sensible tokens of my Saviour's love may

I ever connect his labors, sufferings, and triumph, his legacy of peace, and his promise of help. May a vital union be established there between him and myself; he the head and I a member, he the vine and I a branch, he the chief corner stone and I a lively stone built into a spiritual house, an habitation of God, through the spirit.

Help me to improve more and more the blessings of public worship. May the Sabbath be my delight, a season of refreshing from thy hand. May its private moments be sacred, and its social ones edifying. O let me not perish under the means designed to save me; but let the Sabbath banish the spirit of the world from my bosom and fill me with all the fulness of God.

Increase my zeal in the support of religious institutions; and let there be inscribed *holiness unto the Lord* on my understanding and will, on my senses and desires, on my time and substance, on my words and actions. Gracious God, the continual prayer of my heart is, that learning and science, civil and religious liberty, social blessings, and gospel privileges, may be the means of sanctification and happiness to every family, tribe and nation.

But, O Father, forbid that I should be satisfied with any knowledge or faith or professions or feelings in religion, while my heart is void of thy love and a stranger to that grace which bringeth

salvation. I would therefore urgently pray, that the spirit of devotion may actuate me in the absence of its forms; and may my faith be always proved by my works. Thus honoring thee by the life I shall live, may I glorify thee by the death I shall die, and finally be admitted to the use of nobler means, the performance of higher duties, and the enjoyment of sublimer hopes, in thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

TIME—DEATH—FUTURITY.

Lord of life, who alone art from everlasting, without beginning of days or end of years, I rejoice that amid the continual changes of this my uncertain existence, I can look to thee who art the same forever. Almighty Preserver, I would raise this evening a fresh memorial, for thou hast lengthened out my days, thou hast led me thus far, and I now would return thee joyful thanks for that health which has made life happy. For another week thy light has shone upon me and thy strength has upheld me: for another week thy bounties have gladdened my heart and thy mercies have cheered my dwelling: for another week the offers of salvation have been repeated in my ears and the Son of thy love has sought admission to my heart. For all these daily benefits,

O Lord, what shall I render thee? If I have shown any dulness in estimating thy favors, or any backwardness in obeying thy calls, convince me of my sin, and rouse me to repentance and activity.

While this hour invites me to review life, it awakens in my soul the prayer, that I may set a still higher value on time, remembering that all, which I yet hope to accomplish, must be done in the few days of the uncertain future. In what is well begun enable me to persevere, what I have done amiss lead me to amend, and what I have left undone stimulate me to perform. Above all, give me grace to redeem time, and so to number my days, that I may apply my heart to religious wisdom.

Heavenly Monitor, prepare me for death. My last week, my last day, my last hour must come. O let them not find me in spiritual slumber, but with the lamp of religion trimmed and burning ready to meet my Lord. As it is more solemn to live than to die, may I continually keep in mind the great work I am sent here to do. Forbid that I should ever grow weary in the way of heaven, but grant that my race may be run with patience and my course finished with joy.

God of heaven and of earth, while I supplicate strength to bear the ills of life, and zeal to perform its duties, I would most urgently pray that its close may be crowned with hope. Though I

am born of the dust, and kindred to the grave, thou hast assured me by Jesus Christ that when I die out of this world I pass on to immortality. Forever blessed be thy name for these glad tidings. Living would I rejoice and dying would I hope. O God, it is my first desire to live for the eternal world; and as thou hast connected that world with the present, may I constantly keep in mind the great truth, that character here determines condition hereafter. The longer I live the more earnestly would I pray, that I may wear on earth those robes of righteousness which are required in heaven. O make me fully sensible that the events and trials of every week and every day have their influence on the never-dying affections of the soul. May I therefore feel that eternity is connected with every act, emotion, and resolve. O God, grant that, like my Saviour, every motive with me may be pure, every desire holy, and every hope divine. I would be nothing but what thou wouldst have me to be; I would do every thing thou wouldst have me to do, and suffer all which thy wisdom may ordain. Thine let me be through life, thine let me be at death, and thine in eternity.

Holy Watchman of thy people, I would begin and end every thing with thee. As the hours of another week are closing, let me realize that I am brought so much nearer to thy judgment seat, and *that even* this night my soul may be required of

me. If agreeable to thy wisdom, may I be spared to be useful in the world; yet not my will but thine be done. Heavenly Parent, during this and every other night allowed me here, let me be sheltered by thy protecting care, refreshed by quiet sleep, and fitted for the duties of each coming day.

And now unto thee, the only wise God, who art able to keep me from falling, to lead me in the paths of innocence and peace, to feed me with the bread and the water of life, and finally to bring me in joy to thy heavenly presence, to thee be glory, homage and dominion forever. Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Glory be to God in the highest; on earth peace; good-will to men! With the host of heaven who celebrate thy praise, I would join my feeble offering on earth. I thank thee for the light of this day of rest. With grateful joy I hail the return of a season, consecrated to the special exercises of piety, the instructions of religion, and the outward worship of thee our God. Welcome to my soul are its holy recollections. In the tranquillity of this hour I would offer to thee the sacrifice of a calm, a grateful and a confiding spirit. Look down, my Father, on thy frail and forgetful *child, who* would raise an adoring eye

to the throne of thy mercy. The opening day reminds me of that Saviour, who broke the bands of death and rose triumphant from the grave. O that I might be quickened together with him, and raised from the death of sin to a life of righteousness! Giver of every spiritual good, I thank thee for thy various communications through prophets of old; but most of all, for the unclouded revelation of thy character and will, thy government and grace, through Jesus Christ thy Son. Thou hast brought me near to thyself by these mercies, and given me everlasting consolation. I would cherish increasing gratitude for a religion which is intended to develope my whole nature after the likeness of thine own, to direct every intellectual and moral energy, to confirm the principles of righteousness, charity and peace, to make me resigned in every allotment of thy providence, to fill me with hopes which stretch through all future time, and thus to connect me with all the happiness which there can be in heaven.

My heart's desire and prayer is, that I may make a wise and diligent use of all the means of grace. Help me to understand, to recollect and to apply the doctrines and laws of Christianity. Holy Father, it is my first wish to know thee aright; and may I rise this day to such contemplations of thy character, as shall produce in me the deepest veneration, the purest love, the liveliest hope and the sublimest joy. May the sense

of thy surrounding presence go every where with me to enlighten and guide me, to shield me from presumptuous sins, to keep me in thy faith and fear, to prevent my offending in thought, word, or deed against thee, the omnipotent and holy One. Every Sabbath that I witness may I feel myself more closely connected with thee, and more dependent on thy favor; every step I take in my pilgrimage may I have reason to think I am drawing so much nearer to thee, and to thy heavenly dwelling-place. I pray thee to direct my examination of thy word. I would read it with a strong desire of understanding its meaning and imbibing its spirit. O that its doctrines might inform, its warnings caution, its rules guide, and its promises comfort me, till I receive the end of my faith, even the salvation of my soul.

Great God, I implore thy blessing on all who may worship thee this day, whether in public or private; assured that not one humble prayer will be unheard or forgotten by thee. Accompany the reading of thy word with the power of thy spirit; and do thou give to thy ministers knowledge and sound doctrine, that they may preach, not themselves, but Jesus Christ the Lord. Go with me to thy house; and may I faithfully devote to thee the hours thou hast consecrated to thyself. Suffer not my thoughts to be distracted or my devotions to languish. O let not the affections which *should* be engaged in the holy exer-

cises of the day, be still returning to the cares and interests of a transitory world; but may I present my prayers to thee with the humble hope of thy gracious acceptance, and with perfect charity for all mankind; may I confess my sins with true contrition, and listen to the instructions of thy gospel with seriousness and docility: and may I consider that every Sabbath has an influence on the never-dying affections of the soul. Having used wisely the means of grace, and having delighted to praise and serve thee in thy courts below, grant, I fervently pray thee, that I may be found worthy to meet the angels of light, the just made perfect, the saints of all ages and all worlds before thy throne above, there to celebrate thy perfections, to enjoy thy favor, and to magnify that love which has called us to glory and virtue through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

O thou who hearest prayer, my God and Father, with child-like confidence I approach thee as a Being who lovest the souls that thou hast made; who art more ready to give than I am to ask, and who hast no object before the happiness of thy creatures. At the close of this holy day I have entered my closet, that I might thank thee for the privilege I have enjoyed of meeting my

brethren in the house of worship; and to implore that this may not be among the Sabbaths I have lost. While many have to pursue their spiritual interests under the frown of the world and at the hazard of life; and many more are called to bow down at the altar of idols and burn incense to those who are no gods, how thankful should I be that my lot is cast under the bright beams of the glorious gospel, in a land of civil and religious liberty, where I can worship thee according to the dictates of my own conscience. A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. O let it not be in vain that I have lifted up my thoughts to thee in the christian assembly, and listened to the voice of instruction. I fervently pray, that whatever good impressions have been made upon me may be durable; whatever good resolutions I have formed may be steadfastly kept; the errors which I have confessed may be immediately corrected, and that every devout aspiration I have breathed in the sanctuary may be remembered in the world, to guard me against temptation, and preserve me holy and undefiled. Enable me to become the true follower of Jesus in all things; to clothe myself with his humility, purity, and benevolence. Let thy will, as it was his, be mine also. Like him may I go about doing good. May the contemplation of his character, and imitation of his example, bring me constantly nearer to his own *perfection*, and to those mansions of

everlasting happiness which he has promised to his disciples, and gone before to prepare for them.

Righteous Father, thou needest not my confession to inform thee of my guilt; for thine eye has been always on my path. When I compare myself with the spotless purity of thy law as I have heard it this day declared, I am filled with shame and sorrow. Sighs and tears and promises will not answer the demands of thy word. Holy God, with what can I come before thee? I must fly to that covenant of mercy which my Saviour has sealed with his blood. Through him I ask for that repentance which is unto life, and through him I cast myself on thy infinite compassion; God, be merciful to me a sinner. From the shame and burden of guilt, I would turn to thee who art my glory and comfort. Convince me of my greatest need, and show me the only remedy. I ask thy gracious spirit; be thou the giver and the gift. Enstamp thy divine image on my soul, that I may henceforth be altogether thine. As thou hast allowed me to call thee Father, may I render the obedience and cherish the love of a child. As I came from thee, I would live in thee, so as to return to thee at last in glory. Gird me with strength for thy holy service. I would throw myself into the arms of thy mercy, and offer thee my whole being, my body and my soul, praying that they may be thy chosen temple. O *my God,* take me entirely into thy hands with all

that I have, and let nothing henceforward, either in life or death, ever separate me any more.

But I pray not for myself alone. Bless those who have heard thy gospel this day; and whatever seeds of truth may have fallen into their hearts, do thou cause to take deep root and be abundantly fruitful. Shed thy rich blessing on the ministers of religion, and may the hallowed fire of the altar touch and purify their lips. Bless Christians of every sect; and may they all proclaim their faith by their good works, and recommend by charity and devotion the gospel they profess. Strengthen the hand which is extended to present the Bible to the heathen; and may the happy time soon come when the fulness of the Gentiles shall be brought in, and all Israel shall be saved; when the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the earth, as the waters fill the channels of the deep.

Heavenly Parent, I would pray for all my kindred and friends. Let it please thee to do good unto them all. To those who err, show thy truth; and those who seek it, keep from error. To those who do amiss, give resolution to do better; and those who do well, continue in well-doing. To those who are afflicted, give comfort and deliverance; to those who prosper, humility and temperance. Bless the sick with health; and keep those in health from sickness. Supply those who are in want; and let those who want

not, give supply. To all grant thy grace, O God, and show thy mercy. Let love bind us one to another, and religion knit us all to thee; that however we suffer or scatter on earth, we may live and be in joy together in the felicity of heaven.

God of the night and of the day; my kind Preserver; watch over me during my defenceless hours. Let my sleep be quiet and my rest refreshing; and when the beams of the morning visit my waking eyes, do thou lift upon me the light of thy countenance. And when this succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive me to that world where I may know and love and serve thee through a cloudless, a happy, and an eternal day. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

O thou, who seest in secret; God of my life and Fountain of my hope; as the lover of the souls thou hast made, I come before thee now in the all-prevailing name of Jesus, the Mediator.

Holy Father, I would regard thy laws as my unerring guide; thy goodness, as the theme of my constant praise; thy mercy, the object of my ready trust; thy universal providence, the subject of my highest joy; the securing of thy favor, my *utmost* ambition; and the imitation of thy holi-

ness as the end and aim of all my actions. Without thee I am weak and needy. I have nothing but what I received from thee. I can do nothing without thy strength, and see nothing without thy light. I came from thee at first, I live in thee now, I return to thee at last, and I must depend on thee forever.

In reviewing the unmerited kindness which has crowned my days, I am furnished with the strongest motives for praising thy name, and for placing an unbounded trust in thy faithfulness and love. Before I could raise my thoughts to thee, before my heart could feel its obligations, or my tongue express them, thou wast my never-failing friend. Thou hast brought me to riper years; assigned to me my lot in life; conferred private and social mercies on me, and caused even disappointments to be salutary. Thy favors have been repeated as fast as the fleeting moments of my life; they are more than I can number. O God, strengthen my memory to recollect them; awaken my sense of gratitude; teach me justly to value, thankfully to acknowledge, and wisely to improve them. In view of all thy bounties, I offer this urgent prayer, that I may be faithful to my reason and conscience, faithful to my opportunities and means, faithful to thee, to others, and myself. As thou hast placed me in this introductory world, to learn the first lessons and form the first habits preparatory to higher duties, nobler enjoyments and

sublimer hopes in heaven, may I use the discipline of life with wise reference to immortality, remembering that the views and habits of to-day may have a never-dying influence on the happiness of my soul. O may it be found at my death, that I have cherished the principles and affections of heaven while here, and are fitted to enter upon the extended revelations and the angelic duties of thy spiritual kingdom. Endowed by Christianity with all that mind can desire or immortality promise, may I represent my Saviour on earth as he represented thee; knowing, that I must be pure, holy and perfect as he was, before I can be admitted to the full enjoyment of what he has offered to his disciples. Fountain of light, enlighten my darkness; Source of strength, strengthen my weakness; Father of mercies, pardon my sins; God of heaven, lead me to thyself. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

O thou who hast borne so long with me, and done so much for me; merciful God, whom to know is my highest wisdom, and whom to worship is my noblest service; retiring from every mortal eye, with a mind raised above all mortal cares, I would contemplate thy perfections and *rejoice* in thy love. Thou reignest, and all is

well. Thy government is that of perfect love, directed by unerring wisdom, and carrying its measures into effect by resistless power. Although no finite mind can comprehend the glories of thy nature, yet every finite being can repose in the thought, that they consist in infinite, eternal and unchangeable perfection.

Deeply impressed by these animating and consolatory truths, may I dismiss every anxious, selfish and repining thought; may I welcome with a thankful and contented temper the allotments of thy providence, and indulge no wish but to resolve my pleasure into thine; and, by a strict conformity to the eternal laws of truth and goodness, may I become the voluntary instrument of accomplishing thy designs. Give me contentment and a quiet spirit; give me devout affections and heavenly hope; give me patience and humility, a firm faith and a prudent zeal. Let not sin leave its destructive effects on my feelings or affections, whereby the image in which I was created shall be defaced; but let me effectually shun that precipice to which sin would lead me, and tread that path of the just which leads to endless safety and joy. O God, grant that every thought of my mind, every feeling of my heart, every word of my tongue, and every action of my life may be such as will bear the impartial scrutiny of thy tribunal. And having been faithful unto death, may I hear at last the joyous approval, 'Well

done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord.' Hear me, O my Father, through him who lived and died for us, and to thee I would render unceasing praise. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

Omniscient and omnipresent Jehovah, the morning opens with the beams of thy glory, and the day closes to record thy loving kindness. My Father and Friend, I would reverence and love thee above all the objects of my regard. My Benefactor, I would be thankful for thy bounties, and joyfully confide in thy providence. My final Judge, I would study to approve myself in thy sight.

May I ever keep it in mind that the happiness and improvement of those around me must depend, in some degree, on my temper and deportment. I would be a fellow-worker with thee in diffusing good. Let all bitterness and wrath and evil speaking and all malice be put far from me. Let not my lips move when there is no answer from the heart. Save me from the sins of the formalist and hypocrite. If I have been unjust or unkind to those with whom I live, and have neglected to do them the good which I might; if I have showed no willingness to instruct the young, to reclaim the vicious, and for-

tify the pure; if I have taken thy name upon a thoughtless or an angry tongue, and by my life have given no sanction to christian ordinances: if any of these sins belong to my soul, O God most holy, I pray for that deep, unfeigned sorrow which shall end in the needful change of heart and conduct. And do thou, who hast promised to accept true penitence in thy returning children, help me in future to be what my social and immortal nature requires. Wherever my lot is cast, and whatever my situation or rank in life may be, whether public or private, social or solitary, of more enlarged or contracted influence, may I be equally careful to discharge every part of duty to thee, to myself and to others. I desire to be a Christian in spirit and in deed. May I steadily imitate my Saviour; his purity, his humility, his meek, peaceful and friendly temper, his entire resignation to thy will, his diligence in doing good and finishing his work. Thus let my soul reflect the image and happiness of heaven; and do thou at last receive me to that world, where weakness and danger, sorrow and sin shall find no room.

God of my life, thou holdest all causes in thy hand; let it please thee to guide my steps through all the changes of time and nature. Smile upon me in my going out and my coming in; in my rising up and in my lying down; in thy house and in my own; in my lawful business and in

my innocent recreations. When I enter on a new day give me wisdom to plan, zeal to pursue, and power to finish its allotted labors; and when night closes in upon me, may I repose under the powerful protection of Israel's Watchman, who never slumbers nor sleeps. Hear and answer, O Lord my God, for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

I believe in thee, O my God, do thou strengthen my faith. I hope in thee, confirm my hopes. I love thee, invigorate my love more and more. I repent of my sins, but do thou increase my repentance. As my beginning, I worship thee; as my end, I long for thee; as my eternal Benefactor, I praise thee; as my supreme Protector, I pray unto thee, that it may please thee, O Lord, to guide and lead me by thy providence, to keep me in obedience to thy justice, to comfort me by thy mercy, and to protect me by thy almighty power. I submit to thee all my thoughts, words, and actions, as well as my afflictions, pains, and sufferings; and I desire to have thee always in my mind, to do my works in thy name; and for thy sake to bear adversity with patience. I will nothing but what thou willest, O God, because it is agreeable to thee. O give me grace that I may

be attentive in my prayer, temperate in my diet, vigilant in my conduct, unmoveable in all good purposes. Grant, most merciful Lord, that I may be true and faithful to those who have entrusted me with their secrets; that I may be courteous and kind toward all men, and that both in my words and actions I may show them a good example. Dispose my heart to admire and praise thy goodness, to hate all errors and evil works, to love my neighbor, and to benefit the world. Assist me, great God, in subduing lust by mortification, covetousness by liberality, anger by mildness, and lukewarmness by zeal. Enable me to conduct myself with prudence in all transactions, to show courage in danger, patience in adversity, and in prosperity an humble mind. Let thy grace illuminate my understanding, direct my will, sanctify my body and purify my soul. Make me diligent in curbing irregular affections, zealous in imploring thy grace, careful in keeping thy commandments, and constant in working out my salvation. Finally, O God, make me sensible how little is the world, how great thy heavens, how short is time, and how long will be the blessed eternity. O that I may prepare myself for death; avoid the torments of a guilty conscience, and obtain of thee, merciful Father, eternal life through my blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

Expressed in Scripture Language.

High and lofty One who inhabitest eternity; thou, the Lord God, art one, and besides thee there is no God. Thou doest thy will in the armies of heaven above, and among the inhabitants of the earth below. Power belongeth unto thee; in thee is everlasting strength. Thine understanding is infinite; thou art light, and in thee is no darkness. Holy art thou, O Lord in all thy works; just and true are all thy ways, thou King of saints. Thou, the Lord, art good, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Thou art in every place. If I ascend into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in the grave, lo! thou art there; if I take the wings of the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me and thy right hand shall hold me. Thou art love, and art not willing that any should perish. In thee, O Lord, I put my trust, and in thee I will forever rejoice. Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vine; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall, yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

I give thanks to the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, for blessing me in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I thank thee, that for this end he was born and for this cause came he into the world, that he might bear witness to the truth; and I believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. I would believe his words when he tells me, that as thou didst give him commandment so he spake; that his doctrine was not his, but thine who sent him; and that the works were not his, but were done by thee, the Father, who dwelt in him. I pray to be like him pure, holy, harmless and undefiled. Let me not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of my mind. Let all malice be put far from me, and never let the sun go down upon my wrath. O let me set my affections on things above, and not on things below, that when Christ, who is my life, shall appear, I may appear with him in glory.

Holy Father, enable me to love my neighbor as myself. May I do to others as I wish they should do to me. As far as I have opportunity may I do good to all men. As far as lieth in me, may I live peaceably with all men; remembering that no man liveth to himself. Do thou be my God in life, my hope in death, and my portion forever. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

FOR A COMMUNICANT.—MORNING.

Before the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; I adore thine unspeakable goodness in raising up this Deliverer from sin and death, for a benighted and guilty world. I praise thee for the spiritual and heavenly blessings which thou hast bestowed on me through his mediation, sufferings, and resurrection. What gracious instruction flowed from his tongue! What spotless purity marked his life! What love and zeal filled his heart! With what patience and kindness did he seek those who were lost! What astonishing miracles attested his mission! What benevolence was exhibited in his painful death on the cross! How triumphantly did he conquer the grave and ascend to thy throne in heaven! Indulgent God, how complete is his redemption, how attracting and transporting the thought of his compassion and victory! What light, what comfort, what encouragement, what hope can I need, which the Gospel of Christ does not abundantly supply?

— O thou who seest in secret, I confess I am unworthy of my christian privileges, and that I have not adorned my profession, as I ought, by a holy walk and a fervent zeal. In condemning myself I feel I must be condemned by thee. I lament the errors and lukewarmness which have brought this sorrow to my soul and may have

brought reproach on the holy cause of my Redeemer. Spare me, O Father, through him that died for me. Through thine infinite goodness, in Jesus Christ, have compassion upon my sins, and give me that repentance which is unto life.

To-day thou invitest me to the memorial of my Saviour's dying love. May I examine myself, and keep this christian passover with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. May I regard the Supper as a means, not as an end. May I hear the invitation of Jesus, and go to his table with lively faith and pure gratitude. May I approach as a prepared guest clad in the wedding garments of purity and love. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness, may I receive the bread and wine as emblems of his body broken and his blood poured out for me. I would go to his table as one, who is sick, to his great Physician. Let me worthily receive the elements, and fill me, O Lord, with that spiritual food of which they are the outward signs. May Christ be so made known to my soul in the breaking of bread, that evil affections may die in me, and all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow. May I embrace the covenant of mercy and find redemption through him. O let the remembrance of his love, his sufferings, his death and his glory, comfort, support and strengthen me in life and in death. Heavenly Father, be thou with thy servant *who ministers* in the sanctuary, with my

fellow communicants, and with all my christian brethren. Dispose all who encircle thine altar, to feel and act as friends, partakers of the same grace, and heirs of the same blissful inheritance. And by these spiritual refreshments may thy church be nourished and strengthened, till every member be fitted for the company of the just made perfect, and the church of the first-born in heaven. Hear my prayer, Father most merciful, through him who died that I might live; and to thy great name be glory and praise forever. Amen.

FOR A COMMUNICANT.—EVENING.

After the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

O thou who art Love, and dwellest in love; Father Almighty; thou hast caused thy goodness to pass before me this day. Follow with thy blessing what I have been permitted and enabled to perform in obedience to the injunction of thy Son. I would carry into life and through life the spirit of this Sabbath. If my affections have gone forth towards thee in warm devotion, and if the sufferings and death of my Redeemer have produced proper reflections and awakened proper purposes, to thee be the praise. I thank thee for the health which has enabled me to tread thy courts this day, and to sit down with my brethren

at the table of the Lord, remembering my absent Saviour as he desired. I have received the cup of blessing, given me by thy hand of mercy. I have repeated my vows, acknowledging thee to be my God, and Jesus to be my Saviour. Let it please thee to accept this renewed consecration of myself to thy service. I pray that my spiritual privileges may be my joy and rejoicing in this house of my pilgrimage. May they be health and recovery under all weaknesses and infirmities; safety and defence against all the attacks of my spiritual enemies; vigor and strength to all my good purposes and resolutions; comfort and support under all the afflictions and calamities of life; assistance and direction under all difficulties and doubts; courage and constancy under all dangers and persecutions, in times of sickness, and in the hour of death. As I have named the name of Christ, may I hold fast a good conscience, and set my affections on things above. Help me to follow my Saviour wheresoever he would lead me; to abide in him as the true vine, and to stand fast in the liberty wherewith he makes his people free. May his love for me, which was stronger than death, constrain me to love him in return; and may I never forget his new command, that Christians should love one another as he loved us all. O make me to be his true disciple; triumphing in this, that my Lord, who *was once dead*, lives and reigns forever and

has gone to prepare mansions for those who love him.

Once more, O thou Parent of all, I implore thy blessing upon all christian churches. May their pastors be holy and faithful; and may their members walk in love. Quicken and renew those who rest in the forms of religion without experiencing its power. May professed believers be careful to maintain good works, and win souls to Christ. Pity and comfort those who are denied the privileges I enjoy. Bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived. May faith and peace, devotion and charity gladden the whole earth. Let thy grace be multiplied upon the religious society of which I am a member, and upon the pastor of the flock. Let all with whom I am connected and who are dear to me, be enrolled in the book of life.

Creator and Preserver, I ask thy watchful care over me this night; and may the morning find me in health for my various duties. While I rejoice in the peculiar ordinances of the gospel, may I remember it is God who has bidden me to the feast of life. I would come where thou hast called. Grant me thy help. I desire to array my soul in the wedding garments of innocence and love. I would sit down at the table thou hast spread for me in the wilderness of this world; I would eat of that bread which came down from heaven, and drink of the water of life freely; and

by these spiritual mercies may I be strengthened and prepared for partaking of the marriage-supper of the Lamb in thy house above. Holy Father, receive and bless and sanctify me through Jesus Christ my Saviour and Advocate. Amen.

AT CHURCH, BEFORE THE SERVICES BEGIN.

O thou, whom we have assembled to worship; Infinite God; may I remember that this is none other than the house of God, and that this is the gate of heaven. Assist me, O Lord, and accept my services. May I worship thee in spirit and in truth. Do thou aid him who is to lead in our devotions; and dispose my heart to seriousness, attention, and reverence. May the words of his mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight; and grant that I may improve this opportunity to the honor of thy holy name, and the benefit of my soul, through Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

AT CHURCH, AFTER THE SERVICES ARE ENDED.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for this opportunity of attending thee in thy house and service. Grant that I, and all who profess thy name, may be doers *of thy* word and not hearers only. Par-

don my wanderings and imperfections, and accept my services, through the only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHEN ABSENT FROM PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Eternal God, every where present and always active, I am denied the privilege of meeting with my fellow Christians this day in thy house of worship; yet I bless thee for the assurance, that the prayer, which I should have offered in the crowded assembly, will be acceptable when breathed to thee in this my retirement. O thou who seest in secret, I join in heart and spirit with thy worshipping children, to thank thee for the means of grace and the hopes of glory. I join with thy church in all their benevolent intercessions; and may all the sorrows, privations and pains with which in thy wisdom thou mayest afflict us, be received with fortitude, endured with patience, and improved to our eternal peace.

Supply to me, O God, the want of the public means of grace, by the teachings of thy word and the demonstration of thy spirit. May I recall what I have formerly heard and read, and thus enliven and preserve the christian graces within me. Let me never forget that thou lookest at the heart and weighest the motive. Thou regardest not the prostration of my body or the

fervor of my prayers, unless they make me more pure, holy, and resigned. I desire to be the same when no eye sees me, as I am in the public walks of life. May I enter my closet as well as the sanctuary, and attend to my principles as well as to my actions. O never let me confine religion to times or places, to high excitement or occasional impulse, but may I be in thy fear all the day long. Let me ever distinguish between the forms of godliness and the power thereof. Let it be my study at home and abroad, in thy house and in my own, to keep a conscience void of offence towards thee and towards man. May I more and more rejoice in Jesus Christ as the Captain of my salvation; open my heart to all his discoveries and commands; make his law the rule of my faith and practice; aim continually at an increasing resemblance of his divine virtues, and rely with unshaken confidence on the precious promises which he has sealed with his blood. May I read thy word in my retirement, and imbue my soul with the piety and charity which pervade it. Fountain of spiritual life, my desire is before thee; may my absence from thy house be sanctified to my soul, and may I so use the means afforded me in private, that I shall be fitted to join that great assembly of the just made perfect, who serve thee without interruption in thy heavenly temple. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO WISHES TO IMPROVE HIS CHARACTER.

O thou to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, who seest the wants I cannot feel and the thoughts I cannot utter; eternal Source of light and truth, I come to thee in the name of my glorified Redeemer, to ask for thy paternal blessing on my new resolutions. I come in my sin to seek godly sorrow and forgiveness, in my ignorance to ask for a guiding hand, in my weakness to find thy heavenly strength, and in my poverty to gain the unsearchable riches of Christ. I would remember what I am, and what I ought to be. Thou hast made me intelligent, free and immortal. Thou hast created me in the image of thine own eternity, and given me an interest in all that is future. Thou hast connected my life with thine forever. I am convinced that thou hast made me capable of imitating thee in thy moral attributes, and of imbibing the spirit of Jesus. I am convinced that these acquisitions will develope my whole spiritual nature, and best prepare me for the extended knowledge, the perpetual improvement and increasing happiness of thy heavenly kingdom. I would ask now for a livelier piety towards thee, my Maker. The soul that came from thee I would have ascend to thee often in the services of devotion. In thy paternal regards towards me, I believe that there is no

uncertainty or change; in my service of thee may there be no wavering. I desire to be pure as thou art pure, holy as thou art holy, and perfect as thou art perfect. God of strength, aid me in my spiritual endeavors. O give me that grace which sanctifies the heart, and forms the soul to thine image. Let thine eye be more to me than the inspection of all my fellow creatures, and thy approbation dearer to me than the applause of all worlds. I make an unreserved surrender of myself to thee. Let all that I am, and all that I have be thine now and thine forever.

I desire to know more of Jesus my Saviour. I would have the virtues, which he possessed, live in my heart and shine in my life. In moral purity I would be on earth what he was, that I may be in heaven what he is. I would feel that his commands can be obeyed, and that the standard of his excellence can be attained. May the christian graces, which I shall need above, dwell richly in me while below. I desire to feel the force of all goodness, human, social and divine. I pray that my mind may be more and more enlightened by the great principles of christian truth, and my heart warmed by the growing flames of vital piety. Forbid that I should separate, in my regards, what Christ has joined together in the gospel; but recollect, that if I have faith it must be that faith which is united with charity, which works by love and purifies the

heart. While I know what constitutes the christian character, may I neglect nothing which is needful to complete it. O let me not be content with the bare preservation of innocence, but may I grow in grace, advance in piety and benevolence, and go on unto perfection. Fountain of spiritual life, fill my soul with so deep a sense of the excellence of heavenly things, that I may, by a holy discipline, a calm resolution and a free spirit, have my conversation in heaven and my joy in heavenly employments. I would think nothing arduous to which I am called by thee, and do thou give me a more distinct view of duty, and a more steadfast resolution to perform it. While I am watchful against enemies without, may I not forget those within; and do thou assist me in exercising a perfect government over my thoughts, feelings and passions. Let me remember it is not enough that religion should bridle my tongue and regulate my outward deportment, but that it must rule in my heart, purify the fountains of desire, and turn the whole soul to thee.

Father most merciful, my heart's desire and prayer to thee is, that the love of thee and the love of man may become the ruling principles of my life; and for the future let my time be more wisely improved, my talents more religiously directed, the gospel more honored, and thee more glorified. And having pressed forward towards the mark with increasing zeal, may I hereafter

know as I am known, and see as I am seen, in that blessed presence where is fulness of joy forevermore. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO SEEKS A TRUE FAITH.

God of truth, who showest the right path to those who seek it, I come in the name of him who is the way, the truth and the life, to ask thy gracious aid in my endeavors to know the truth as it is in Jesus, the faith once delivered to the saints. I desire to resign myself to the guidance of thy spirit, and the teachings of thy word. With just solicitude I would inquire for the right way. Cleaving to thee and holding fast that which is good, I beseech thee to preserve me from whatever may lead me into error. Believing the soul to be immortal, like the truth which it loves, I desire to gather into mine all that can promote its endless improvement. I desire to know thee and Jesus Christ; to know my fellow men and myself; and to understand the application of christian principle to human happiness. God of power and of love, do thou help me in my endeavors. I rejoice in the divinity that beams from thy works, and in the inspiration which breathes from thy word. Regarding the soul as an harmonious part of thy vast creation, I would make it all that it can become in know-

ledge, virtue, and felicity. Do thou direct my examination of the sacred Scriptures, so that I may find the pearl of great price. Had I the tongue of an angel I could not give thee sufficient thanks for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the redemption there is in him. Help me to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings. May I study his word with the spirit in which it was written. O give me clearness of reason, sobriety of judgment, honesty of mind, and perseverance in pursuit. Rescue me, I fervently pray thee, from that prejudice which prevents a just discernment; from that fear of man which brings a snare; from that self-interest which obstructs an impartial examination; from that ignorance which clouds the understanding, and from those corrupt affections which darken and seduce the soul. Regulate every disordered feeling which would blind me to thy truth, or cast down my heart from its integrity. Let me not mistake the reasonings of prejudice for the teachings of thy gospel, nor the fervors of passion for the renewing of thy spirit. Keep me unspotted from the world; may its smiles never allure, its frowns terrify, its vices defile, or its errors delude me. Father of lights, I resign myself wholly to thee, assured that thou wilt not suffer those, who sincerely desire to know the truth, finally to miss of it. If, in any thing, which concerns thy worship, or the honor that is

due to thy Son, or the immortal happiness of my soul, I am in error, I earnestly pray to be convinced of it, and to be led into all truth.

As my blessed Saviour has promised, that all who do his will shall know his doctrine, grant, O God, that I may never willingly offend thee in any thing, or neglect to do what is thy wish and my duty. Whatever truth shall be disclosed to me, may I receive it in faith, obey it in love and profess it with joy.

Give me true and abiding charity for those who have ignorantly erred from the right way. Though I could speak with the lips of angels, and have not charity, I am nothing. May I show them a christian meekness; and by the piety of my heart and the usefulness of my life, may I be instrumental of winning them to the truth.

Through him, who came to show us the Father, I offer these my requests, nothing doubting; and through him to thee, the everlasting Source of life and salvation, be glory and praise forever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO IS PERSECUTED FOR HIS RELIGIOUS OPINIONS.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the author of peace and the lover of concord; in my sorrow and anxiety I repair to thee who art the friend of the friendless, the stay of the weak, and

the refuge of the forsaken. I thank thee for the blessed gospel, and for its records now in my possession. Having searched the sacred Scriptures with an honest mind, I have of myself judged what is right, and have joyfully and thankfully embraced the truth as I see it to be in Jesus. Having thus yielded to the strength of evidence and the deductions of reason, I have obtained a faith in thee and a faith in Christ on which those around me look with alarm. I am not only deprived of the sympathy of others, but experience their disapprobation and reproaches. I am called to suffer shame for the name of my Redeemer, and I feel that I am thus persecuted for righteousness' sake. Amid these afflictions I come to thee imploring thy strength. Sustained and comforted as I am by thy word and truth, may no increase of suffering draw from me an inconsiderate prayer, or extinguish the patience and charity which I learn from Christ. I would overcome evil with good. I would bless those who curse me, and pray for those who despitefully use me and persecute me. O God, give me the spirit of him, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; and like him may I from the heart pray that thou wouldst forgive those who refuse me justice. O lay not these sins to their charge; but give them better principles and kinder feelings.

Great and blessed God, most deeply do I lament that the faith once delivered to the saints is

so frequently weakened by vain traditions, darkened by superstitious fears, and corrupted by human inventions. Suffer not men, I beseech thee, any more to mingle darkness with the pure light of heavenly truth. Put an end to ambition and selfishness in the church. Let the human soul no longer be abused. Break the power of spiritual tyranny, dissipate the clouds of ignorance, and let the true light visit mankind. May free inquiry prevail so as to destroy all usurpation over the consciences of men. May Christians every where contend earnestly for their religious rights, and make the Bible alone their rule of faith and practice. Above all, I pray that the progress of thy truth may not be hindered by the wicked lives of those who profess it.

O Father, with diligence to search and attention to consider and grace to understand thy holy gospel, give me carefulness to reduce its rules to practice, so that my whole life may be one continued recommendation of the true faith. If I am wandering from the strait path, I fervently pray thee to bring me back. Fountain of wisdom, enlighten me where I err, sustain me where I am right, and let the spirit of truth lead me into all truth. I ask for the spirit of Jesus. As his gospel has come down to me, confirmed by the blood of martyrs and the voice of ages, may I be willing to suffer for it, and, if need be, to die for it. Give me an apostle's fervor, and a martyr's

courage. May I stand firm against every assault, and let nothing infringe on the innocence, integrity or peace of my conscience. Let no offers of worldly reward, and no threats of personal pain ever induce me to betray my Saviour. I would be determined in purpose and vigorous in action, looking to him who is the Lord and Head of Christians. O give me that zeal which comes from knowledge and is ruled by discretion. May I be prepared for the further light which is to break forth from thy holy word. It is my heart's desire and prayer, that I may more and more believe thy gospel, trust in thy promises, wait for thy mercy, and do thy will. Let me fear nothing so much as offending thee, and desire nothing so much as thy favor. As I have named the name of Christ, may I patiently bear his cross; and having been faithful unto death, do thou at last bring my soul to that world where no sin shall blight its purity and no persecutions disturb its rest. There may the pious and holy of every sect, forgetting their differences on earth, unite with the harmonious church of heaven, in ascribing glory and honor, dominion and power to him, who sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON WHO HAS NEGLECTED RELIGION.

Just and holy God, who requirest holiness in thy children, and who hast made holiness to be the preparation for heaven, I should come before thee with shame and blushing, for I have neglected the one thing needful. I have lived in thy world and fed on thy bounty, and yet have overlooked thee, the Giver of all good. I find a law in me, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. I have cast off the fear of thee and have restrained prayer; I have profaned thy name, and despised thy reproofs. I have refused to honor thy Son, and have cherished an evil heart of unbelief. I have not known or wished to know the purity, holiness, and worth of his character. In my intercourse with my fellow men, I have had a single regard to my worldly gain without a due respect for thy law. I have been a partaker of other men's sins, and have emboldened them by my example. I have indulged passions which war against the soul. I think of my besetting sin with shame and confusion. I have sinned, Father, against heaven and in thy sight, and I tremble at the doom of the slothful servant. Lord of life, cut me not off from the land of the living till I am fit for death and judgment. Spare me to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. *Though I have loitered* so long in thy vineyard,

and trifled so much with thy work, I would repair to the mercy which is promised to the repenting. I have been intent on this world as if it could never end, and forgetful of the next as if it could never begin. I desire to be aroused from this delusion, and henceforth to be as zealous for thee as I have been eager for the world. When I think how much depends on this short life, which will so soon be gone and can never return, I am filled with deep anxiety to redeem time and work out my salvation. O thou who sparest when we deserve punishment, have compassion on me, and make the remembrance of my sins so burdensome that I shall fly to thee with a troubled spirit and a contrite heart. Visit, comfort, and relieve me. I throw myself on thy infinite grace. I would become pure in heart. O help me in my struggles with sin; and may I come before thee in future with a heart free from wild enthusiasm and cold formality, from credulous superstition and deadening unbelief. May I frequently place before myself the awful moment, when all I here cling to shall elude my grasp; when every earthly good shall be to me as if it had never been, except in the remembrance of the use I have made of it; when my eyes shall close upon a world of sense and open upon a world of spirits; when there shall be no relief, no refuge, except in thy everlasting mercy. O Lord, prepare me for that hour. Let thy com-

passion pardon what I have been, thy grace reform what I am, and thy wisdom direct what I shall be. In the name of him, who died for the ungodly, I offer my prayer, beseeching thee to grant an answer of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

INTERCESSION FOR A RELATIVE WHO IS VICIOUS.

Righteous God, omniscient and almighty, in the name of him, who has brought in everlasting redemption for sinners, I now approach thy throne of mercy to intercede for my relative whose sins are bringing swift ruin upon *himself* and the deepest affliction to *his* family and friends. Thou hast required from *him* no services but those which *he* could perform; and forbidden no indulgence but such as would bring wretchedness and sorrow; yet, *he* has listened to the voice of the charmer and been deaf to the warnings of conscience. *He* has deviated from the law of innocence and equity, of temperance and kindness. *He* has broken the harmony of *his* nature; and seems not weary of the burden of *his* transgressions, or ashamed of their defilement, or afraid of their consequences. *He* lives without thee, without Christ and without hope in the world. For these moral crimes I mourn and weep. When I contemplate *his* besetting sin, and see in it the

destruction of all I once valued and loved, my heart is overwhelmed with grief, and my soul is made desolate within me. O God, I fly to thee for guidance and support. In thee is my hope. With strong crying and tears I intercede for *him*, beseeching thee not to cast *him* off forever. O thou who canst raise the dead, raise *him* from this death of sin to a life of righteousness. Make thyself known to *him* in *his* moral restoration. When I think how much *he* needs and how little *he* deserves, I am filled with anxiety; but with thee there is plenteous redemption: O save *him* that *he* perish not. Thou hast devised means by which they who are banished may not finally be expelled from thee: God of compassion, here put forth thy saving hand. Take thy *servant* into thy powerful and fatherly protection. Break the fatal enchantment which binds *his* soul to guilty indulgence. Teach *him* the lesson *he* appears so unwilling to learn. Show *him* the precipice to which *his* sin leads *him;* and enable *him* to see *himself* as others see *him.* I fervently pray thee, to spare *him.* Deprive *him* not of talents and opportunities which *he* has wanted the wisdom to use. Dispel the mists of ignorance and error; quicken *his* dulness in thy service, and break the fetters of sin. Enable *him* to shun every person and place that would lead *him* into vice. O that *he* might become worthy of thy pardoning mercy and redeeming love. May his relatives and

friends leave nothing undone which would awaken *his* mind to reflection and *his* heart to piety. O my Father, grant that I may, before I die, see *him* turned from the error of *his* ways to thee *his* God. May I see *him* possessing a taste for devotion, with *his* affections refined and spiritualized, with *his* soul sanctified and saved. O let that happiness be mine, to see *him* restored to the welcome affection of *his* friends, to the joys and duties of a virtuous life. Hearken to the voice of my cry, my Father and my God, and send me the answer of peace through the Saviour of sinners, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.

FOR A CRIMINAL IN PRISON.

Just and merciful God, who bringest to light the hidden things of darkness, and visitest sin with shame and punishment; thou disappointest the hopes of the wicked, and makest them feel in this world the guilt of transgression, that thou mayest deter others from the evil of their ways, and save their souls in judgment. In the solitude of my prison and out of the depths of misery, I cry unto thee, O Lord my God; and do thou condescend to hear me through him who came to seek and save those who are lost. Shame, remorse and *suffering* are now my deserved portion. *I am here because* I cannot be trusted with my

liberty. I have by my conduct proclaimed my hostility to the peace and virtue of mankind. While the pure and just are enjoying the sweets of freedom, I am here shut out from all the joys and improvements of home. I have hardened my heart, and repeated the works of darkness, and would not be reformed. Neglecting to use my talents aright and to improve my opportunities, I am brought into this wretched condition. My crimes stand before me in their number and depth. Miserable man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? God of compassion, in the midst of judgment thou rememberest mercy; I fly to thee with a free spirit, beseeching thee to exercise thy willing clemency. Thou desirest not the death of sinners, but rather that they should return to thee and live; and hast promised that whosoever believeth on thy Son shall not perish but have everlasting life: O let me be among those whose unrighteousness is forgiven and whose sin is covered. Let my present woful situation be turned into the happy means of converting my soul and perfecting my repentance. Thou hast power to forgive the sins which man must not overlook: I earnestly pray that this prison may be a school of virtue for me. May every inward and outward pain become a solemn monitor to my soul; and may every needful restraint here be the means of producing in me the freedom of holiness. O let every trial

and every deprivation promote my final prosperity. As I see and feel the evil of sin in the degradation and sorrow it has brought upon me, I pray that it may effectually teach me the great value of truth, justice and religion; and show me how a good name is better than all riches. Experiencing the consequences of transgression, let my soul be moved to effectual reformation. O may the morally dead be alive again; and the morally lost be found. God be merciful to me a sinner. Let the deep wounds which guilt has made be entirely healed. There is time for reconciliation. May I so feel the criminality of the dispositions I have indulged and the course I have pursued, that I shall wholly renounce them; and when I leave this prison may I go forth with a firm resolve to repair, by a life of exemplary justice, usefulness and piety, the evils I have done.

— If I am never to leave this place of confinement to enjoy the outward freedom of earth, O God, grant that I may enjoy by holiness and devotion the inward freedom of a citizen of heaven.

I pray for my fellow-prisoners; beseeching thee to disappoint the devises of those who would be the terror and scourge of human society. Look in mercy on those who are struggling with their sins; and enable them to come off conquerors through Jesus Christ. May the reflecting and penitent in this prison set an example of order and self-reflection to the rest, and at last bring

them to repentance. I offer my prayer in his name, who showed compassion to the malefactor on the cross, and to thee be praise forever. Amen.

BIRTH DAY.

To thee, my Creator and Preserver, I would this day raise a new memorial; for by thy sparing favor I am permitted to see the beginning of another year. On this solemn and interesting anniversary I fly to thee in prayer, to thank thee for what I have received, and to ask thy direction and blessing through the remaining part of life. Another year, which began under thy guidance, has been filled with thy mercies, and is now closed under thy care. I thank thee for this continuance of my being; I thank thee for the light of reason and conscience, for the friendly and benevolent affections, and for all the useful and improvable powers of my mind. I thank thee for health, peace and safety, for personal, family and public blessings, for every innocent and social enjoyment, and for all the happiness of the past year. Though I have neglected some of its opportunities and perverted some of its blessings; though I have made earnest exertions after imaginary good, and foolishly abandoned my truest interests, yet, I humbly hope that the whole of

this year has not been lost. Of thy great clemency I pray that its many failures may be forgiven, and its imperfect services accepted. I have seen thee in the bounties which have cheered and the disappointments which have saddened me, and I believe it has been thy purpose to conduct me, through the path of penitence, of willing obedience and meek submission, to unmixed and everlasting good. While I mourn over my sins and desire to forsake them, I fervently pray that in the future my great aim may be to do thy will. In thee may all my wishes begin, my labors proceed, and my hopes centre. O my Father, give me an immediate and steadfast regard to duty. Grant me wisdom to plan and power to execute. By diligence, economy and temperance may I preserve health, and secure the comforts of life; and by integrity, meekness and devotion may I secure thy favor which is better than life. Knowing that all I yet hope to accomplish must be done in the uncertain future, let not the coming year prove the occasion of new waste, or more aggravated ruin; but do thou help me to serve thee in the state to which thou hast called me, and make my remaining life one continued act of cheerful obedience.

My guardian God, from infancy I have been cast upon thee. As I now enter another year, not knowing the things that will befall me there, I would come to thee, who seest the end from the

beginning, and would submit my ways to thy guidance and my interests to thy disposal. On the darkness of my path shed thou a beam from heaven. If in this year I am to die, O let my soul be in readiness for the summons, by having its peace made with thee, and its hope in a Redeemer sure and steadfast. If I am to live, be thou my strength. Thou knowest my wants and art able to supply them; thou perceivest my dangers and art willing to defend me; I pray thee to compassionate my weakness, to guard me in peril, to direct me in doubt, and to save me from error. In every exposure let thy shield be over me; and from every evil around or within me do thou graciously deliver me. And whether I enjoy, or suffer, or live, or die, may it be found that the lessons and duties and events of time have fitted me for the knowledge and improvements and happiness of eternity.

Now unto God, the great Preserver, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the Lord of life and death, be thanksgiving and praise forever. Amen.

FOR AN AGED PERSON.

Author and Supporter of life, who art the same from everlasting to everlasting; in whose duration there is no succession, one day being with

thee as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day: I come to thee, the Rock of ages, the Refuge of every generation, desiring to thank thee for the many favors I have received at thy hand. Thou hast maintained my frail existence through many years, and crowned its successive periods with thy mercy. Even my sorrows and trials have showed a Father's discipline for my good. Thou hast supplied my wants of body and soul, shielded me from dangers, sustained me in distress, and carried me thus far, a wonder to many. How much do I owe thee for the light, and consolation and hopes of the gospel! Praised be thy name that I have no dread of ceasing to exist; because Christ has removed the burden of our fears, and opened the door of immortal life. I feel myself connected with thee by a tie which can never be broken, and claim an interest in every moment of the everlasting future. To thee, who hast continued my life thus far, I look for its continuance in another world.

Merciful God, I am filled with sorrow at the recollection of neglected duty. Record not against me the indiscretions of my youth, and show thy compassion to my present sins. I would have a godly sorrow for whatever I have thought or said or done amiss in the long course of my pilgrimage. The time which I have lost do thou help me to redeem, and the good works I have began, do thou assist me to complete

I have injured any, enable me to discover it, that I may make due reparation, and be at peace with all men before I go hence. Preserve me from every sin to which I may be exposed. O save me from a selfish, censorious, impatient, and irritable temper. Make me thankful to those who contribute to my comfort; and may I rejoice in the happiness of all around me, and with a friendly spirit instruct and admonish the rising generation. Especially may I render the religion of Jesus attractive and venerable by showing an example of cheerful piety and devout resignation. Thus may I bring forth fruit in my old age.

Lord of life, my strength now is ofttimes labor and sorrow, and I shall soon go down to the grave. These admonitions of increasing age and approaching death are wisely attached to my condition, and I would duly heed the needful warnings. I desire to submit the events of my being to thy management without one murmuring word or one discontented thought. This is my first and earnest prayer, that as the outward man fails the inward man may be renewed day by day. Let my hoary head be found in the way of righteousness. Though my sight is dim to the world, let the eyes of my mind be opened to see thy salvation; though my ears are dull of hearing, let them hear the glad tidings of the gospel; *though* I cannot taste as formerly what I eat and *what* I drink, let me taste the goodness of the

Lord, and hunger and thirst after righteousness; though my limbs are weak and my strength is but feebleness, yet do thou make me strong in the Lord, to walk in thy ways that my feet may lay hold on eternal life. O Father, amid the infirmities of age may thy comforts delight my soul; and finishing my course with joy, let my last days be my best days. I rest on thee. Cast me not off in my old age, forsake me not when my strength fails; but be thou the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. While I live I will praise thee, and sing praises to thy name while I have my being; and looking forward with joyful hope to eternal life, which is thy gift, may I find a happy admittance to that world where existence is not measured by years, or improvement retarded by age. Amen.

FOR A PERSON IN MIDDLE LIFE.

Father of lights, and Source of being, I bless thee for conscious existence, for the rank allotted me among the works of thine hands, for my intellectual and moral powers, for all my capacities of enjoyment, and for that variety of objects around me adapted to their nature and improvement. I bless thee, the Father of knowledge, for

the assistance in the pursuit of science and virtue, which thou hast afforded me through the channel of friends, teachers, books, or conversation. Most of all, I bless thee for the light, consolation, and hope, which thou hast put it into my power to obtain by the careful study of the holy Scriptures, by serious meditation on their important doctrines, and by an impartial and diligent use of them in the regulation of my faith, temper and practice. O may I show forth my gratitude for these many favors, by devoting my powers to thy service.

Gracious God, thou hast brought me to this period of life, when my strength is upon me, and when I am able to make the greatest exertions. Do thou teach me the duties which this season requires. Forbid, great God, that I should misapply or trifle with any portion of that precious time, for the use of which I am accountable at thy bar. May I regard my time and all my opportunities as talents which thou hast lent me. May I remember that the obligation and the ability to do good are of equal extent; and do thou graciously dispose me to fulfil this measure of my duty.

God of wisdom, enlighten my understanding to discern the great objects of existence. O let me never weakly imagine, that thou hast placed me so high in the scale of being only to enjoy the fleeting gratifications of the body. May I seek

a happiness the most exalted and durable, a happiness flowing from obedient appetites, well regulated affections, increasing knowledge, the exercise of piety and benevolence, and the well-grounded hope of thy approbation and favor. While my thoughts are engaged about the things of earth, may I reserve my affections for what is pure, ennobling, and heavenly.

In my intercourse with mankind, may I have wisdom to know what is right, and steadfast resolution to perform it. Let no passion obscure my understanding, no prejudice warp my judgment, no affectation of novelty seduce me from the truth, no self-interest extinguish my charity, and no temptations subdue my virtue. O save me from the guilt of the hypocrite. May I cherish a true christian simplicity of character, and be in reality before thee what I appear before men; and never may I profess religion until I am religious. Let me be serious without gloom and cheerful without levity. Let a blameless consistency of life give weight to my endeavors. Enable me to pursue virtuous ends with unwearied zeal, with unaffected humility and enlightened benevolence. O God, give me the strictest regard to integrity and truth, perfect chastity of thought and desire, and a temperance which no appetite can overcome. Keep me from idle amusements and vicious company. Arm my soul against besetting sins, and whenever I act

may I do good. Give me a thoughtful and timely regard to those who depend on me for aid, support or counsel. May I consider this world as the introductory school of discipline for my affections, and its joys and sorrows as intended to qualify me for higher enjoyments and never-ending improvement in heaven.

Holy Father, I ask thy mercy for my numerous sins; and I fervently pray, that in future I may act for immortality. I give up myself to thee. Go with me through this world of danger; and at the close of life may I have the testimony of a good conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not by fleshly wisdom, but by thy grace, I have had my conversation in the world. Through my Saviour and Advocate I offer my prayer, ascribing to thee glory forever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON IN ACTIVE BUSINESS.

Righteous and merciful art thou, O Lord, in the ordination, that by the sweat of our brow we should eat bread. Thou hast created all beings, that they might enjoy their existence; and thy wisdom is manifest in every provision for their welfare. Thou lookest upon the earth, and fillest it with blessings for them.

Thou art calling all to activity and labor, that they may be useful to each other, and be pre-

served from the evils of idleness and vice. It was the Saviour's meat and drink to do thy will, and to finish his appointed work. Merciful God, let me not esteem it a burden that I am called to activity and solicitude. I ask thy divine grace to give me faithfulness and alacrity in the duties of my employment. May I never plan what I cannot ask thee to aid, and never execute what I cannot ask thee to bless. As I am fixed in business, not for my own private interest alone, but for the good of society, O implant and increase within me a principle of truth and good-will towards all men, that I may always abhor the thought of enriching myself by the gains of secret fraud or base ambition. Keep in me a conscientious regard to that great principle of doing to others as I would that they should do to me. May I never forget that the wages of unrighteousness bring down thy quick displeasure, and that the prosperity of the wicked shall destroy them.

Amidst undue eagerness for wealth, do thou sound in my ears that awakening question, What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Save me from the snares of covetousness, and may I remember that the day is approaching in which earthly riches cannot profit me. O grant, that amidst all my pursuits I may preserve a supreme regard to thee, and secure those heavenly treasures which can never be taken away. Amid the conflict of rival interests,

and the tumult of worldly ambition, may the whisperings of conscience be audible, and the still small voice of religion be regarded. To this end, O God, I ask the guidance of thy friendly spirit; and while my thoughts are steadily fixed on earthly objects, may I be careful to reserve my affections for what is heavenly and eternal. Knowing the tendency of the world to extinguish a sense of spiritual blessings, may I maintain such constant suspicion of these earth-born passions, as shall keep me from every inordinate pursuit of temporal good. May the law of truth be written on my heart, so that iniquity shall never be found in my mouth.

If my means increase, grant me a liberal hand to the poor and needy, and never let health, affluence or power banish from my mind the gentle spirit of humanity; but may I use what thou impartest, with temperance, gratitude and charity. May I do much to promote good learning and pure religion; and by benefiting society may I prove that thou hast not blessed me in vain.

Giver of every good, I ask thy smiles upon my plans and labors. May I be prospered in my lawful undertakings; and by fidelity and prudence, by industry and benevolence, may I do honor to the religion I profess, and at last receive those higher rewards which earth cannot bestow. In the name of him who died to redeem us from the power of this evil world, I offer this my prayer,

ascribing to thee, the Disposer of my condition, praise everlasting. Amen.

WHEN IMPORTANT BUSINESS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

I look up to thee, God of knowledge and of strength, who givest the skill to plan and the power to execute, imploring thy blessing and help in the important business now before me. I am about to take a step in life full of interest to myself and others; do thou, who seest the end from the beginning, bring the whole to such an issue as shall most conduce to my christian improvement, to thy glory and the happiness of others. Counsel me with thy wisdom and make my heart submissive to the guidance of thy providence. Without thy light and help I know nothing and can do nothing; O preserve me from false judgments concerning the ends of living and the road to happiness. In all my ways I would acknowledge thee, and do thou direct my paths. And having wisely chosen, may I rightly manage and successfully accomplish the work before me. Thy will be done, whatever the event shall bring. O my Father, at every juncture may I preserve a conscience void of offence. Forbid that I should form any plan or engage in any action which shall endanger the property, the comfort, or the virtue of others. May I dread and fly

from every thing which would injure my neighbor; but, acting under the influence of truth, justice and charity, may I show at all times the spirit of Jesus.

Omniscient God, I again refer all to thee. I ask not the gratification of my ignorant desires, but would humbly acquiesce in the allotments of thy wisdom. As nothing comes to us from thee but what we should most desire and pray for, let me ever desire to be in harmony with the all-wise system of thy world, which is that of universal benevolence. Be thou my Guardian and I shall fear no evil; be thou my Benefactor and I shall want no good thing. I ask in faith, nothing doubting, and to thee be homage and submission forever. Amen.

FOR A PERSON IN PROSPERITY.

Indulgent God, the benevolent Disposer of all events, the sole Possessor of heaven and of earth; the world is thine and the fulness thereof. To thy sovereign goodness I am indebted for all the advantages of my present condition. My heart overflows with gratitude for the success and prosperity which are my portion. My table is spread with thy gifts; my cup runneth over. Not unto me, O Lord, but unto thy name be the praise. *Thou* makest rich; thou liftest up; wealth and

honor come from thee. Better than my fears hast thou been to me, and beyond my hopes hast thou blessed me. What am I that thou shouldest thus visit me with thy favors? All that comes from thee is good, and to be received with thanksgiving.

O God, it is my heart's desire and prayer, that I may honor thee with my substance, advance my spiritual interests, and promote the best good of those around me. May I use my abundance with moderation and enjoy my elevation with innocence. Having freely received may I freely give. I would have my alms, together with my prayers, come up as a memorial before thee. Let me imitate the goodness and beneficence in which I rejoice, and, to my utmost power, be that friend and benefactor to others, which thou art to me. And may I regard thy tokens of love here, as pledges of nobler blessings reserved for me hereafter, if I use the world without abusing it. Fountain of spiritual good, most devoutly would I beseech thee to add to thy temporal gifts the possession of a pious, modest, and sound mind. May purity and virtue heighten all my enjoyments. Preserve me from being elated with pride, or overcome with pleasure. Preserve me from the blindness and infatuation of those who take this world for their portion, and whose prosperity destroys them. O preserve me from that gross sensuality, that levity of disposition, and

that insolence of deportment, which must wound the hearts of others, and contaminate the rising generation. By affability and condescension, temperance and usefulness, by the command of my appetites and by a steady regard to every duty, may I show that thou hast not blessed me in vain. May I never need the threatenings of thy law or the terrors of punishment to keep me from sin, but may thy goodness lead me to repentance, and thy love constrain my obedience. By the golden chain of thy bounties I would be bound to thy throne. Let me see that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possesseth; that he who is not rich towards God, is infinitely poor and destitute; that the only use of earthly wealth is to purchase the true riches, and that a holy zeal for thy service is able to convert the widow's mite into a treasure greater than all the world has. O let me see that thy word is more to be desired than gold; that the kingdom of heaven is indeed the goodly pearl of great price, and that its subjects, though poor, yet make many rich, though having nothing are yet possessed of all things. Great God, let me take care not to lose my own soul, though it were to gain the whole world; and let me ever bear it in mind that there is nothing pleasant, nothing honorable, nothing valuable, but the faithful discharge of my duty, and thy favor, and that these are better than life itself.

O God, remind me of the instability of earthly possessions. Teach me to expect a change in my circumstances; and do thou prepare me for it. In my fulness I would rejoice with trembling. Under all events may I lay up my treasure in heaven: there let my affections be, and thither let my wishes turn. My soul sees nothing great but thee; and in the name of him, who became poor that we might be rich, I would render to thee immortal praise. Amen.

FOR A SEAMAN.

O thou, who stillest the raging of the sea, and the noise of its waves; All-powerful God; I lift up mine eyes to thee, from whom cometh my help. Thou holdest the winds, and at thy command they go forth to fulfil thy word. Thou art God of the sea. Preserve and support me, I beseech thee, during my exposure on the deep. While I am thus dependant on thee, do thou be with me for my safety. Let me not utter thy name but with the greatest reverence; nor forget, that to thee I owe my security, and that thou holdest my soul in life. Fortify me in the seasons of peril; not by blind courage, but by an unbounded confidence in thy care and goodness. Let it please thee to give success to my lawful undertakings, to conduct me safely to my desired haven, and

return me to my family and friends with gratitude for thy sustaining providence. Impress deeply upon my mind the value of those domestic ties which bind me to my relatives and home. May their constant solicitude and anxious prayers for me, produce serious effects on my mind. May I be induced to improve wisely the leisure hours I enjoy, and gain some useful knowledge for my future life. Let me not follow a multitude to do evil, or give my consent to the enticement of sinners. Especially, O God, let me be thoughtful of the Sabbath day to keep it holy; and as I am here deprived of public worship, may I read thy sacred word with seriousness, and meditate upon it with devout prayer. Enable me, O Father, to have a strong faith in him, who rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. May I ever say to my tempestuous passions,—Peace, be still,—and look forward to the haven of eternal rest. God of power, shelter me under the shadow of thy wings from the storms of worldly care; and when the darkness gathers, and the winds blow, and the waves swell, be thou my harbor and secure repose.

I commend to thee my fellow seamen, and do thou be with them in peril, and strengthen them when they wake and watch.

O God, preserve me from being tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine. Guide me by the spirit of discretion during the

whole of my passage through the duties and dangers of time, and when the waves of death shall compass me about, and the sea shall give up its dead, and every one be called to judgment, then may I find the hope of the gospel an anchor to my soul, sure and steadfast. Amen.

FOR A HIRED PERSON, OR ONE AT SERVICE.

Father of all, with whom there is no respect of persons; thou lookest at the heart, and hast furnished all thy children with the means of pleasing thee and becoming happy. In thy wisdom thou hast permitted varieties of condition and inequalities of property, in order to promote the greatest good of all. I desire to answer the purpose of thy goodness in my present situation. Having entered this family to perform the duties of labor, I desire to be faithful to my trust. As I have promised to give them my devoted service for the compensations they return me, let me consider my time and talents as belonging to them. With honor, justice and fidelity may I yield what they have a right to require. In nothing let me think myself too wise to learn, or too good to amend, but may I be prompt to receive kind counsel and well-inclined to pursue it. I would be diligent, respectful and peaceable, remembering that thou dost require the strictest

honesty, temperance and truth. O God, forbid that I should waste the goods of those with whom I live, or mispend the time I should devote to their service. May I willingly obey my employers in all things according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing thee. I pray that I may cherish an affectionate concern for those who wish me good, and account their happiness as my own. May I consult their interests, preserve their property, and defend their good name. Amid the crosses and provocations of life may I be courteous, patient and kind. Enable me to restrain my irritable feelings and to withhold all petulant replies. At such times may I be most careful to govern myself; not answering again, to stir up wrath, but following the things which make for peace.

Most of all, O Father, I pray that my present situation may promote my spiritual good. May I remember that the principles and affections which I cherish now will go along with me into eternity. May I therefore take my Saviour as my model, and become more and more like him in humility and truth, in kindness and devotion. When I remember that he washed his disciples' feet to set them an example, let me also connect religion with all my duties, and thus fill my life with opportunities of the highest value.

I ask thy blessing on those who share the same

condition with me. Never let me withhold good from any to whom it is due, when it is in the power of my hands to do it. May we live together as Christians. O God, may I more and more struggle against every besetting sin. Convince me of the great importance of choosing the chaste, virtuous and exemplary as my associates; and may I avoid every person and place that would lead me into crime. Bless all the sons of labor. Bless the farmer in the field and the mariner on the sea; bless those engaged in trade and those devoted to study.

Again, O Lord, I ask thy smiles on my religious prosperity. Make me perfect in my submission to the allotments of thy providence. Subdue the workings of pride and selfishness; and never let me covet another's possessions, and never take thy name in vain. Clothe me with a meek and humble mind; feed me with the bread of religious wisdom; make me rich in spiritual and incorruptible blessings; and having been faithful unto death, do thou admit me to that world where we shall all serve one Master, whose service is perfect freedom. In the name of him, who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, I offer this my prayer, ascribing to thee all power and dominion forever. Amen.

FOR THE FAITHFUL DISCHARGE OF SOCIAL AND DOMESTIC DUTIES.

Father of all the families on earth; thou hast placed the solitary in families, and dost manifest thyself to them as thou dost not unto the world. Thou hast kindly given us into each other's care, and made our happiness to consist in the imitation of thy benevolence. I come to implore thy blessing on my endeavors to fulfil every domestic and social obligation. Give me wisdom to plan and power to execute whatever will most promote the health, comfort and virtue of those around me.

I pray for self-government; and may those christian graces, which make families and neighborhoods happy, take full possession of my soul. I ask for the unconditional surrender of my selfishness. May the spirit of self-sacrifice be the ruling principle of my heart; and may I never feel so contented as when I am a fellow-worker with thee in benefiting thy children. Suppress forever within me every thing like envy, pride, malice and uncharitableness. When the conduct of others is rash, obstinate and irritating, let me have the patience and gentleness of Christ. Give me that charity which beareth all things, suffereth long, and is not easily provoked. Most earnestly do I desire to be free from an angry, peevish

and complaining temper. O God, show me how such a disposition unfits me for the duties I owe to thee, to others and myself. Mercifully grant me a meek and quiet spirit, a forgiving, amiable and generous heart; so that my deportment may be discreet and obliging, and my whole conduct such as becomes the servant of the lowly and blessed Jesus. To christian godliness may I add the habitual exercise of brotherly kindness, and thus fulfil the royal law which requires us to love our brethren as ourselves. O let me never harbor a thought, indulge a wish, utter a word, pass a judgment or do an action, which charity forbids.

Author of peace and lover of concord, shed heaven's rich blessing on the family in which I live. Let it be a type of the family above. May the softening influences of religion so cement our hearts, that we shall have compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous, and not render railing for railing, but contrariwise, blessing. May parents esteem it their first social duty to educate their children for immortality, teaching them thy truth, when they sit with them in the house and when they walk by the way, when they lie down and when they rise up. May children return the love of their parents in obedient, docile and affectionate hearts. May those who serve do their work with caution, promptitude and cheerfulness. O God, let our dwelling echo the voice of social prayer, of

mutual instruction and christian love; and thus may we all be fitted for that holy family in heaven, where truth, peace and joy will reign forever. Amen.

FOR A PARENT.

God of power and of love, from thee come our choicest gifts. Thou hast blessed me with children, and inspired my heart with the most ardent affection for them. Having committed them to my care, thou hast commanded me to educate them as Christians, as intelligent and immortal beings. How solemn and important is this charge! From my inmost soul I pray thee to give me thy help that I may train them up in the way in which they should go. Wisely consulting their different abilities, may I so direct their studies and pursuits as to give the utmost expansion to all their mental faculties, and the greatest usefulness to all their labors. But, most of all, I desire to unfold and strengthen their affections, so that the love of thee and of man may become principles within them, over which time and death shall have no destroying power. Enlighten and direct me in the choice of proper means for cultivating pious and holy habits in their opening minds. With unwearied zeal I would sow in their hearts the incorruptible seed of divine truth, that they

may know the Scriptures from their youth, and have aptness to learn the things that be of God. Great Shepherd of Israel, crown with thy blessing my endeavors for their good. I would give them up to thee, and may every one of them be thine. As thou hast made them my children by natural birth, do thou make them thine by spiritual adoption. May they be heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ in the heavenly inheritance.

Righteous Father, while I pray for them I would also pray for myself; beseeching thee to increase my solicitude to set before them the pattern of a godly life. Standing as thy representative to them, may I so take heed to my teachings and example, that I may never stain the whiteness of that innocence, adorned with which they came into being. At no time let me forget, that what I say and do cannot fail to influence the formation of their temper and character. Let me ever view them as schooling for eternity. O do thou direct me to the most rational and salutary expressions of my love to them. Preserve me from the extremes of angry impatience and undue severity, and of excessive indulgence and misguided fondness. Let parental authority be softened down to parental influence, and let every command be suggested by wisdom and tempered with love.

God of all mercy, save me, O save me from

the most grievous calamity which parents can feel, that of beholding their children vicious and miserable. I pray thee to protect and bless those for whom my heart beats with the tenderest anxiety; and never let them be led astray by wicked principle or seductive example. Whatever else thou mayest deny me, grant that I may see them walking in the truth, adorned with innocence and kindness, with humility and devotion. O Father, prevent the influence of any errors in my conduct towards them, and graciously supply my deficiencies. When death shall separate me from them, let me have the consciousness that I have not wilfully neglected my duty; and let me leave behind a character which they can remember with gratitude, and an example which they can follow with safety. And in the great day of inquiry and judgment may we be found together before thy throne, and may I be able to say with joy, 'Here am I, O Lord, and the children which thou hast given me.'

O God, grant an answer of peace to my prayer, through Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen.

FOR A HUSBAND OR WIFE.

I thank thee, sovereign Disposer, for calling me to the honorable and endearing relations of *married* life. Fixed in this connexion, I cheer-

fully recognise thy providence, and bless thee for the christian improvement and rational happiness with which my days are crowned. Viewing this condition as connected with all my present comfort and with my immortal hopes, I pray that I may feel most deeply its daily responsibilities and its great moral power. As my marriage was sanctioned by religion, may religion be the ever-present measure of my duty; and I earnestly implore, that I may faithfully perform the engagements of that covenant which I took in thy presence. Enable me to live as a Christian in this relation, and to put away from me whatever would interrupt the joys and improvement it is intended to yield. Give me grace to correct what is wrong in my dispositions, to govern my passions, to be a severe censor of myself, but never to exact or expect too much from the friend and partner of my days. It is my heart's desire and prayer that I may prove a rich and lasting blessing to *him* (*her*). May I recollect that *his* highest interest must be mine also; and while I share *his* joys, may I tenderly console *his* sorrows, and become *his* helper in all the changes and chances of the world. Bless *him* with thy heavenly favor. Let me aim continually at the cultivation of *his* understanding and the strengthening of *his* moral taste. Thou hast kindly given us into each other's care; and O let that pure and confiding love be ours, which calms the disquie-

tudes from abroad, smooths the labors of home, refreshes the languid spirits, alleviates the pain of sickness, and lightens every burden of adversity; while, at the same time, it sweetens every enjoyment of life and gilds every blessing of prosperity. Let hasty and wounding words be put far from me, and the tones of kindness and forbearance be ever on my lips. Thus make life a state, not of temptation and regret, but of innocence and peace; and thus may we be thine in joy and sorrow, in pleasure and pain, in hope and fear, in life and death, in time and eternity. Amen.

FOR AN INSTRUCTER OF YOUTH.

Great Father of light and God of knowledge, who canst not be taught by any; thine inspiration has given me understanding, and in thy providence I am called to the station of instructer. I come to supplicate thy gracious help in my arduous and responsible trust. Let me have just views of the greatness of the human mind, and ever recollect that thou hast made it to hunger and thirst after knowledge and virtue. Let me be unwearied in the culture of my own mind and heart, that I may every day be more able to lead others on. Assist me in restraining angry and impatient feelings; and may I deem no efforts

too great which shall convey useful knowledge to the opening mind, or protecting principle to the youthful heart. Bless those under my care. O help me wisely to guide and successfully to teach them; and while I am an equal judge to them all, may I be moreover a pattern of what is right and pure before thee. Let me aim to give that positive action to their minds, which shall effectually discipline and strengthen them; while I also teach them the importance of strictly connecting their thoughts, feelings and emotions. O God, enable me fully to estimate those indirect influences, which have such mighty power in forming the susceptible mind; and may I be prompt to turn the force of incidental circumstance to its happiest results.

Above all, holy Father, I pray that I may never educate the intellect at the expense of the heart. I desire to keep in mind, that their moral culture is of the highest moment, and let me so bring out and expand their religious affections, that thine image may shine forth in them and the voice of conscience be regarded as the voice of God. Do thou, O Lord, prosper my efforts; and having trained them in science for the duties of this world, may it be my chief joy to enstamp on them the lines and features of piety, that they may wear in heaven a bright resemblance to the eternal Model of purity and virtue.

I offer my prayer through him, in whom are all

the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, ascribing to thee praise forever. Amen.

FOR A TEACHER OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Eternal Source of light and strength, who givest liberally to those who ask in faith; called in thy providence to impart religious knowledge to the rising generation, I now come to seek from thee that wisdom, guidance and truth, which shall fit me for this delicate and responsible office. Let it be my first desire to feel a deep and growing interest in the souls of children, recollecting that they are made in thy image, and are to live and think and act forever, influenced by the principles and character which they cherish on earth. While I hope every thing from proper religious instruction, may I never be impatient or weary in urging them to the highest spiritual attainments. O may I teach them to see thee in every thing, and every thing in thee. May it be a leading object with me to interest them in the works and teachings of Jesus, and do thou enable me to breathe into their souls the life-giving spirit of his gospel, so that they may be, as their Saviour was, holy, harmless and undefiled. Thus may I prepare them for the duties and joys, the temptations and trials of life; and having been a rich comfort to their living parents, may they continue to shine

in the lustre of genuine goodness when those parents are laid in the dust.

Holy Father, give me a clear understanding of the truths I should inculcate, and help me to adapt them to the minds and conditions of my pupils. Above all, I pray to be a pattern of the excellence I recommend. O let me be what I profess; and do as well as teach. On all occasions may I honor my religion before them by showing its control over my temper and conduct. May I learn from thee how to love them, and teach them by my example how to love thee. Let my deportment be courteous, the tones of my voice persuasive, and all my feelings like his who took little children in his arms and blessed them. God of mercy, give me thy holy Spirit, that I may make their souls to become temples fit for thee; and to thee, through endless ages, shall be given the glory and the praise. Amen.

FOR A VERY YOUNG CHILD.

To be used at any time.

My heavenly Father; thou seest all I do, and hearest all I say. Thou art very kind to me. I thank thee for all thy gifts; they are more than I can remember. O Lord, take care of me, and make me a good and happy child. Amen.

FOR A YOUNG CHILD.

My Father in heaven; thou art very great and good. Thou didst make the sun and the moon and the stars. Thou makest the clouds to move in the sky, and sendest down the rain from heaven. Thou makest the summer and winter. Thou keepest me alive in the day-time and in the night. Thou hast given me kind parents. I thank thee for all these good things. I wish to love thee more and more every day, and to do what will please thee. I wish to love my parents more, and to do all they tell me. O Lord, look down upon me, and bless me, and make me a good and happy child. Amen.

FOR A CHILD.—MORNING.

My Father and my God; thou hast taken care of me while I was asleep. I thank thee for the pleasant light of this morning. The darkness goeth away, and the day-light cometh at thy command. I thank thee for all thy goodness to me and to others. I am thy child. I ask thy blessing. Make me wise, good, contented, and useful. Keep me from doing wrong this day. Let me not be impatient, or fretful, or angry; but may I be a gentle and pleasant child. I am so little I cannot take care of myself. Thou hast given me

kind parents, who provide clothes and food and books for me. O God, bless my father and mother, and may I obey them and make them very happy. Keep me far from wicked children, so that I may not learn their evil ways. Help me to become wiser and better every day, so that I may grow up for heaven; and when I die may I go to thee and Jesus Christ, and to all good people who have died before me. Amen.

FOR A CHILD.—EVENING.

Almighty God, thou delightest to hear the prayer of a little child. Thou hast let me live through another day, and given me what is best for me; and now before I close my eyes in sleep, I wish to thank thee in my heart for the good things I have received. I thank thee for the light of the sun; for the friends who instruct me; for food and raiment; for a home to shelter me, and a bed wherein I may rest my weary body. Help me to remember how I have spent this day; and if I have felt or said or done any thing wrong, may I be so sorry for my faults that I shall do better to-morrow. I wish to be more kind and more industrious every day. Let not my lips speak evil of others, nor my heart wish them any pain, nor my hands do them any mischief; but may I speak the truth always, and do unto others

as I wish them to do to me. May I love my parents and teachers, and listen to their advice. May I love my brothers and sisters, and all mankind; and love thee more than all besides, so that I may be fitted to live with thee and Jesus Christ in heaven.

I think of poor people, and those who are sick and unhappy. Pity them, O Lord, and help me to pity them.

My heavenly Father, I am now going to sleep. Thou seest me by night as well as by day. Keep me safe, and awake me in the morning in health. If I should die in the night, take me to heaven where I may be happy forever. Amen.

FOR A YOUTH.—MORNING.

Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth, thou hast created me by thy power, preserved me by thy care, and supported me by thy goodness. I am indebted to thee for all that I have; I am dependant on thee for all that I want; and I owe to thee all that I can do. Thou hast watched over me during the defenceless hours of the night. I have slept in safety and awoke in health. Early will I seek and praise and thank thee. I sincerely thank thee for that bountiful providence which has nourished and cheered me. I thank thee for my reason, education and religion; for all the

gifts of nature and grace; for our Saviour, Christ; for my redemption, and instruction in the truth; for thy repeated calls to me; for all the patience which has waited for me, and the mercy which has spared me; for the enjoyments of this present life; and for the promises and hopes of a better life to come.

O God, may these mercies lead me to love thee more and serve thee better; to love Jesus Christ more and serve him better; to love my [parents and] friends more and serve them better; and to be more willing to do to others as I wish others should do to me. O make me sensible of the importance of having right principles and habits on my entrance into active life. May I remember that I am now forming a character, which must affect my condition and happiness in this world and in the next. O may this day, and every day, find me keeping a constant guard over my thoughts, passions and conversation. Let me remember that thine eye is always fixed upon me. May I be temperate, chaste, sincere, faithful and diligent. Help me to embrace the good and avoid the evil which I see in others. Let me choose for my companions those who love and fear thee, and let me wisely shun the snares of wicked company. I desire to imitate the youthful piety of Jesus; that, like him, I may grow in wisdom as I grow in age. Thus may I repay the care and affection which are manifested for me, and thus

gladden the hearts of my [parents and] friends by the promise of usefulness and virtue.

I am now to go forth to the duties of the day; do thou go with me. Keep me from harm, and bless me through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR A YOUTH.—EVENING.

Kind Author of my being, I would adore thee as my Preserver and Benefactor. Another day has gone to return no more. I thank thee for thy care. Thy mercies come to me with every moment of my life. They are more than I can number, and many more than I have deserved. I have sinned against thee; for I have left undone some things which I ought to have done, and have done some things which I ought not to have done. Thou knowest all my faults. As thou hast promised to forgive me if I truly repent, I earnestly pray thee to look in pity on my sins, and teach me so to live that I shall offend no more. I desire to be a Christian in spirit and in deed.

Blessed guide of my youth, do thou preserve me from all corrupt communications; from those youthful lusts that weaken the understanding and ruin the soul. I would be pure in thought and action. Preserve my tongue from uttering falsehood, deceit or impiety, and my hands from com-

mitting injustice. Give me a cautious, sober and devout mind, that I may tremble at the hazard of following evil companions. Dispose me to respect the counsels of age and experience, and may I avoid every thing which I should blush to reveal to my fellow men, and which would fill me with shame and fear when I think of thee. Forbid that I should misapply or trifle with any portion of that precious time, for the use of which I am accountable at thy bar. May I be industrious, so that I shall be useful; and virtuous, so that I shall be happy.

I thank thee for parents, kindred and friends; and I rejoice to behold in their solicitude for my welfare, the image of thy love. I ask thy richest blessing on them. May I never forget how much their happiness depends on my good conduct. O help me to become all they desire; and when the wise and aged shall be called hence, may I be prepared to enter into their labors, and to be useful in society.

God of the night, keep me in safety while I sleep; and when my life on earth shall end, admit me to the happy, cloudless and eternal day of heaven. Amen.

FOR A YOUNG ORPHAN.

O my heavenly Father, to whom shall I go but to thee? Thou feedest the young ravens when

they cry. Thou art the Father of the fatherless, and thy love is more tender than the love of a mother. I desire to put myself under thy heavenly care, since I have lost one [both] of my earthly parents. Save me from danger; from wicked actions and bad company. Give me good friends; and may those with whom I dwell be kind to me, and pray for me, and teach me what I ought to know. Let me not be a burden to any one, but may I be gentle, patient, industrious and honest, and find favor in the eyes of others by my good behavior. O Lord, do thou guide and bless me; and at my death bring me home to the house of my heavenly Father, where I may meet the good persons who have gone to happiness before me. Amen.

FOR A YOUTH WHEN ABSENT AT SCHOOL.

God of wisdom and Guide of my youth; as I have left the house of my earthly parents, and they cannot see me and take care of me, as they have done; I desire more particularly to put myself under the care of thee, my heavenly Father, who art equally present every where. Placed here to receive needful instruction, may I turn to thee in all my wants, and find thee my Helper in every trial.

I thank thee that I live in a land where I can obtain useful knowledge. O help me willingly

and joyfully to improve my present opportunities. When I consider the expense which my parents so cheerfully incur, and the increasing solicitude which they now feel, may it be my deep and abiding concern to answer their expectations. They pray for me, and may their prayers be heard. Lead me duly to consider the importance of this period of my life. O invigorate my pursuit of useful knowledge; strengthen my memory; assist my discernment of things that differ; and so enlarge my understanding, that I may comprehend and retain what is here taught me, and thus become qualified for the future duties of my station. While I have proper times for relaxation, I truly desire that the love of amusement may never steal away the hours which should be devoted to study. I pray that I may be punctual in my attendance at school, diligent in my lessons, exemplary in my deportment, and obliging to my associates. Save me from a rash, obstinate and heedless temper; and protect me from idle, profane and vicious companions.

But while my reason is cultivated, may every holy affection be cherished in my heart; and let my soul be enriched with the truths of the gospel, which are able to make me wise to salvation. O grant me that reverence of thee, which is the beginning of wisdom, and let it lead me to regard thine eye more than the inspection of all teachers and parents.

Omnipresent Father, bless my absent kindred and friends. Let them hear such good tidings of my diligence, regularity and improvement, that my return to them shall be a time of unalloyed delight. I make these requests through him, who grew in wisdom as he grew in stature, and ascribe to thee praise everlasting. Amen.

SHORT LITANY FOR CHILDREN.

To be used in a family, or school.

[Let the parent, or eldest child, read the paragraphs marked R; and the children read, or repeat from memory, those marked C.—Let the reader introduce the service by reciting the following texts, or any others he may choose.]

Jesus said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength: This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so to them.

God is a spirit; and they who worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Let us pray.

R. Father Almighty, thou lovest those who love thee; and when they pray from the heart, thou givest them what they need.

C. Thou art looking at us now in mercy, and *hearing* what we say.

R. Thou art great and wise and powerful.

C. We would meditate on thy greatness and power.

R. The light of the sun was made by thee.

C. And the light of the moon was made by thee.

R. The birds that fly in the air are thine.

C. And the fishes that swim in the deep sea are thine.

R. Thou givest light and color to the beautiful flowers.

C. And thou dost ripen the fruits of the earth.

R. Thou givest food to all creatures.

C. Thou hast fed us every day.

R. To children thou givest parents and friends, teachers and books.

C. O Lord, we thank thee for all thy goodness.

R. We ought to remember thee, and to love thee with all our hearts.

C. We pray that we may do so.

R Thou hast given us thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, who has told children how to be good and happy, and has promised to take such to heaven when they die.

C. With all our hearts we desire to do what Jesus tells us, that we may live in his happy family forever.

R. He says that we must not think any wicked thoughts; must not say any wicked words; must not do any wicked actions.

C. O Lord, help us to remember these things, and if we do wrong, may we be sorry, and do so no more.

R. Holy and merciful God, we wish thee to love each one of us, to bless us, and keep us from all evil.

C. And we wish thee to love and bless our parents, relations, and teachers.

R. We also desire thee to bless all other children, especially the sick, the ignorant and the poor.

C. O heavenly Father, do thou feed poor children, and clothe them, and give them books, and make them happy as we are.

[Let us slowly repeat the Lord's prayer together.]

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FOR A SICK PERSON.

Lord of life, who orderest all things in heaven and in earth, I come now to submit myself to the disposal of that wisdom which cannot err, and to

the care of that goodness which is unchangeable and everlasting. I would humbly own and reverence thy hand in my present sickness. Knowing that all the causes which can reach me are under thy control as the ministers of thy pleasure, and that thou dost never willingly afflict or grieve thy children, I would believe that this message of sickness is sent for my spiritual good. My first desire is, that it may be so sanctified to me.

O my Father, the strong love of life prompts me to pray, that this sickness may not be unto death, but for thy glory. Let not the disease touch the vital springs of being, or weaken the powers of thought. With submission to thy will, I pray for my restoration to health. But vain are all human remedies without thy blessing. With thee nothing is impossible. Speak the word of healing, and thy servant shall live. Spare me in mercy to my family and friends, and give me a further opportunity of working out my salvation. May I yet live to perform my duties more acceptably; and let not the night of death come till the labors of my earthly day are finished. But if thou hast ordered otherwise,— not my will, but thine be done.

While I plead for the health of my body, I would more earnestly pray for that of my soul. Whatever else thou shalt deny me, O deny me *not an interest* in thy grace. May sickness in the

body bring health to the mind; and the fruit of affliction be the removal of sin. May I learn that most important lesson, to bless thy name when thou takest away as well as when thou givest. I ask for a tranquil resignation to that fatherly providence which sees the end from the beginning. In all my weakness be thou my stay and support; in all my sorrows and trials be thou my consolation and refuge. Endue me with patience, fortitude and meekness under the pains of disease and the irksomeness of confinement. Above all prepare me for death. Blot out my transgressions through thy infinite mercy in Christ Jesus; and dispose me to do what is necessary for the great exchange of worlds. Before I reach heaven may I bear the image of the heavenly; and while my bodily sufferings lead me more justly to value health and strength, may this sickness teach me to live for immortality. Let me take that view of life from my sick bed, which cannot be taken from any other place; and henceforth may I regard the world but as the road which conducts to a higher destination.

With the tenderest sympathy I would intercede for others who are sick, beseeching thee to relieve their pains, and to give them a strong faith in that blessed Saviour, who went up to his Father's throne by the steps of suffering.

In his name, O Lord, hear my prayer, and to *thee I* would render unceasing praise. Amen.

FOR A SICK PERSON WHO HAS SMALL HOPE OF RECOVERY.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and who hast not thought a crown of everlasting life too much to promise to thy children; I come to thee as my refuge in the time of danger, my help in the hour of distress. By my present sickness I am gradually brought towards the gate of death; and the hour of my departure apparently draweth nigh. I shall have no power over the spirit to retain it.

I would not forget the many and varied blessings, which have sustained and gladdened me through my past life; yet, most of all, I thank thee for the redemption there is in Christ Jesus, and for the promise of an incorruptible inheritance beyond the grave. In reviewing my conduct, I find cause of humiliation and sorrow. With unfeigned repentance for these errors, and with steadfast faith in thy mercy, let my sins be done away before I go hence, and my pardon sealed in heaven. I would throw myself on thy free and abounding grace held forth in a Redeemer; and do thou say to my soul, 'Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee; depart in peace.' And being absent from the body, may I be present with the Lord.

— Kind Disposer of all events, help me to do, while I *live, the* work which remains to be done. *If I have injured* any, I would make due repara-

tion, and be at peace with all men before I die. Taken from a world to which I cannot return, do thou comfort and guide those objects of my affection whom I leave behind. Provide for them in thy bountiful love, and let thy providence be their stay in this world, and thy salvation their inheritance in the world to come.

And now, O Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee. Thou hast brought me to this hour with a Parent's wisdom: O sustain me with a Parent's love. Let no increase of pain produce repining, or draw from me an inconsiderate prayer. Above all, let nothing destroy the order of my thoughts, or weaken the strength of my trust. If this cup may not pass from me except I drink it, thy will be done. Prepare me for the solemn hour, and be with me in it. Let not my faith waver, nor my hope fail. Strengthen me in the last conflict of nature, and carry me safely through every pain. O God, breathe hope and peace into my departing spirit; and when the shadows of death shall compass me about, may beams from the sun of righteousness illumine the dark valley; may thy rod and thy staff comfort me; and let me have a happy transition from this world of sin, trial and suffering, into that rest, which remains for the people of God.

[The following may be added in the hour of death.]

And now, O Lord, thou callest me away. Father, I am coming to thee. When flesh and heart

fail, be thou the strength of my heart and my portion forever. With a christian trust and a calm resignation I now commit my soul into the hands of a faithful Creator. Let me triumphantly pass the gate of death to my joyful resurrection. Living and dying let me be thine. The Lord's will be done. O death! where is thy sting? O grave! where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, who giveth me the victory through Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. Amen.

AFTER RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, and who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercy. I praise thee, great Physician of soul and body, that, although thou hast chastened me, thou hast not given me over unto death. I praise thee that thy powerful arm has arrested the progress of my disorder, and helped me out of all my troubles. Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy, and my mourning into gladness. I thank thee for every comfort and alleviation of pain with which thou hast been pleased to furnish me; and especially for the love of my friends,

and the promises of thy Gospel. I acknowledge thy inexpressible goodness in restoring me from the anguish of suffering and from the brink of the grave, to endeared connexions, to enlivened hopes, to new opportunities, and to increased motives for cultivating christian affections, for abounding in good works, and for laying up treasures in heaven.

O Father, let not these opportunities be neglected by me, but be wisely improved to thy glory. Since life is given me anew, let me not devote it to sin, but live to thee who hast spared me. I have experienced thy power and compassion. May I ever live in the exercise of a grateful confidence in both, and be duly sensible of my dependence on thy care and government. I have been brought near to the realities of the world to come; brought to feel the worth of thy favor, and the value of a conscience void of offence. Almighty God, let the convictions I have had of them never be extinguished in my heart. Enable me at all times to entertain that humble contrition for my sins, and that penitential sense of my need of thy mercy, which the nearness of death was instrumental in producing. Help me to appreciate, as I ought, eternal things, and to do all that thou requirest, in order that I may secure thy approbation and friendship. May the resolutions I formed, when sick, now be effectual.

Thou hast enabled me to realize the vanity and

uncertainty of the world. Preserve me from attaching too much importance to its pleasures, honors or possessions; and assist me constantly to remember how rapidly it is passing away.

Thou hast taught me by sickness the worth of friendship. The offices of kindness which have been performed for me, have, with thy blessing, cheered, consoled and supported me. My God, never let me be insensible of the love of those, whose hearts thou hast warmed with good-will towards me. Make me ready to return their benevolence on every occasion. Let me be softened with humanity towards all who suffer; and never let me behold the bed of sickness without sympathy and charity.

It was thy gospel, O thou God of all consolation in Jesus Christ, from which my hope was derived when the shadows of death appeared to encompass me. The assurances which it contains of thy forbearance and mercy, and of eternal redemption through thy Son, were the blessed support of my spirit. O give me grace to cling, with faster hold than ever, to this rock of salvation, to abide in the love of Jesus, to follow him undismayed, and constantly to hope through him for justification and future happiness.

Preserver of my being, thou hast now shown me how frail I am; hast given me a striking proof of the precariousness of life; and I know, that ere long I shall bid farewell to all whom I

now behold. O may I be prepared for that sickness from which I shall not recover. May I walk by faith and not by sight. May I be concerned to be always ready, and to be found in that frame of mind, which will enable me to welcome death as the messenger of peace.

Holy Father, hear my prayers, I beseech thee, forgive my sins, and make me thine for evermore, through him who was made perfect by suffering. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A PARENT.

O thou, in whose sight we all are children, thou livest for ever and ever; but unto us thou hast said, Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Eternal God, I would adore thee in all thy doings. Even when thou causest trouble and heaviness to fall upon me, it is that I may learn righteousness from thy judgments, and receive profit from thy correction. Thou art calling me to drink very deeply of the cup of sorrow. The fond parent thou gavest me for my guidance, my instruction, my support and comfort, thou hast now taken away, and left me without the protection I have always felt. The places which once knew, are to know this friend no longer. The voice, which spoke wisdom to my early days and guided my inexperienced feet, I am to hear no

more. O God most holy; believing thou knowest when it is best to call thy creatures to thyself, I would exercise an entire submission. I would be still and know that thou art God. Let me not murmur or be dismayed while I am allowed to call infinite wisdom and infinite power my Father and Friend. Though clouds and darkness are round about thee, yet in thy dealings there is nothing uncertain or severe. Enable me to hold forth an example of that trust, which belongs to a citizen of heaven. In the midst of my grief may the spirit of Christ possess my soul. Sanctify to me this severe affliction; and enable me to treasure up the sacred words of counsel which came from one who loved me so much. Grant me strength to follow every good example which was placed before me; and often to call to mind the unwearied exertions which were made to promote my welfare. Grant that seeing others die may teach me also to be ready; and let me be assured, that my death cannot be cheered with holy hope unless my life has been filled with christian obedience. If death should be sudden, let it find me with the lamp of religion trimmed and burning. Lord of life, I rest on thee. Let thy wisdom be my direction, thy power my support and thy goodness my confidence; and when I have completed my days on earth, I pray to be united with my departed benefactor in thy heavenly family. O God, give me the consolation which

a trust in thy love and a faith in thy Son is fitted to impart. May the bereavement which separates from me an earthly parent, serve to bring me nearer to thee, my heavenly Parent. O help me to look beyond the days of sorrow the afflictions of time and the hour of death, to that world where weeping, danger and anxiety can never come. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A HUSBAND OR WIFE.

O thou, whose ways are to us inscrutable, great, eternal God; thou givest and thou takest away. Thou liftest up and thou castest down. Thou art God alone; infinitely wise and infinitely good. Thou seest the end from the beginning; and in thy purposes of love thou canst not err. Thou settest the solitary in families, and at pleasure dissolvest the connexion. It has seemed good in thy sight to take from me a friend who was as my own soul; the chosen partner of my life; the object of my most affectionate regards; my support and comfort under the labors and anxieties of this mortal state. Forlorn and desolate as I am, I fly to thee beseeching thee to pour into my wounded heart the consolations of thy spirit. O God, by what painful experience art thou teaching me the instability of all earthly enjoyments! But I would not murmur at thy dea-

ings, believing that thy chastisements are those of love; and that by all these things thou art intending to do me good. Enable me so to use my trials that they shall leave behind a blessing. God forbid, that my present grief should render me unmindful of thy past goodness. I thank thee that I have been permitted so long to share with my departed companion the joys and hopes of existence; and now that I am left alone, I pray thee to guide me in mercy through the remainder of life; and then receive me to that world where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor parting. I desire to repose myself, and those who are left with me, under the care of thy providence, assured that I cannot be destitute while thou art my helper, or miserable having thee for my portion. Prepare me for the scenes of adversity I am yet to experience, and may they be so sanctified to me that I shall be made perfect through suffering. Whatever outward blessings thou shalt see fit to deny me, O deny me not the comfort of thy love. Provide me with friends to assist me in my deserted condition; and give me grace to behave with propriety in all my relations. O God, do thou be my friend, my father, my life, my health, my rest and my joy. Under thy discipline, I desire to submit to thy directions, to refer to thee my actions, and to resign into thy hands all my interests in time and eternity. May *this bereavement* lead me to place my happiness

in thee, and to look forward to that life which is beyond death, and over which death has no power. In his name, who bore the heaviest cross, I offer my prayer of faith, and would render to thee homage and submission. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A BROTHER OR SISTER.

Sovereign Disposer of all events; our light in darkness and our life in death; thou hast robed my heart in mourning, and I come into thy presence with the voice of grief. I come to thee as my Father, and do thou hear me as thy child. Thou hast taken from me one in whom I was comforted, who shared with me the joys of early life, and experienced with me the kindness of affectionate parents. Forcibly hast thou taught me, that the tenderest friendship has no power to retain the departing spirit. O Lord, thou knowest the anguish of my bosom, and seest the pressure of my affliction. But, forbid that I should murmur. I desire to bow in humble resignation to thine appointment, and to read the solemn lesson thou wouldst teach me. As the duties and events of time are the means of education for eternity, may this bereavement promote in me the life of heaven. From thee came the blessing of *this* friend, and I know thou hast the right to resume it. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath

taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Give me that composure of spirit, which shall enable me to receive the consolations of religion; for I well know how dark soever this night of affliction seems, if thou sayest, Let there be light, there shall be light. Gracious Monitor, prepare me to follow this departed friend of my bosom. May I be wiser and holier by thy dealings with me. Soothe my sorrows by the comforting words of Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. Like him may I bear what thy wisdom shall ordain; and in all my afflictions, however severe, be able to say, Not my will, O God, but thine be done. I earnestly pray that the relatives who have gone may draw me nearer to thee. Holy Father, strengthen me with those principles that will not vanish when death approaches. As I come nearer to the grave, do thou increase my faith, enliven my hope, extend my charity and sanctify my soul. And having led me through this vale of tears to the land of eternal joy, may I meet the just made perfect in thy presence, and glorify thy name for ever. Amen.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

Giver and Receiver of souls; thou seest the end from the beginning, and knowest what is *really best for me.* I fly to thee, beseeching thee

to sanctify to me the bereavement, which fills my heart with grief. Thou hast united me to the objects of my innocent affection by the tenderest ties; and I bless thee that thou wast pleased to give me my departed child, and to bestow on me the satisfactions and joys which a parent feels. Thou hast now taken away from me this beloved being. Thou hast destroyed my cherished hopes, and filled my heart with mourning. But I would not murmur; I would bow with resignation to thy sovereign appointment. I give its body to the grave. I commit its soul to thy infinite mercy, to be ministered unto by thy angels, and guarded by thy hand: and never can I sufficiently thank thee, that our Lord Jesus Christ has declared, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Compassionate Father; console my sorrows, I pray thee, and prevent me from despising thy chastenings or fainting under thy rebuke. As the ties which bind me to earth are severed, may those which unite me to heaven be strengthened. Teach me more perfectly to do and suffer thy will, and to draw instruction from the adversities I experience. May I hear the voice of Providence saying to me, What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter. I would *piously* wait the great explanation. May I *willingly* give up my child from these arms below

into the arms of a better Parent above. Henceforth let me consider it as one of my treasures laid up in heaven. Affect me with just convictions of the vanity of human life, and the uncertainty of earthly comforts. Dispose me to work out my own salvation with fear and trembling. [O give me the most serious attention to the religious instruction and improvement of those whom thou hast preserved to me. Bless them with all the blessings thou hast in store for the deserving.] Instead of attempting fully to explain the unsearchable mysteries of thy government, let my heart rest assured, that all things shall work together for good to them that love thee; and may I steadily look forward to the resurrection of the just, when those who have been separated shall meet, to part no more. I offer my prayer in his name who wept that we might rejoice, who died that we might live; and to God, who is over all, be dominion and glory for ever. Amen.

SELECTION OF HYMNS.

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1. L. M. BROWNE.

THE ONE GOD.

1 ETERNAL God! Almighty Cause
Of earth, and seas, and worlds unknown!
All things are subject to thy laws;
All things depend on thee alone.

2 Thy glorious being singly stands,
Of all within itself possessed;
By none controlled in thy commands,
And in thyself completely blessed.

3 Worship to thee alone belongs,
Worship to thee alone we give;
Thine be our hearts, and thine our songs,
And to thy glory may we live.

4 O, spread thy truth through every land,
In every heart thy love be known;
Subdue the world to thy command,
And, as thou art, reign God alone.

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2. C. M. BOWRING.

THE HEART'S WORSHIP.

1 THE offerings to thy throne which rise,
Of mingled praise and prayer,
Are but a worthless sacrifice
Unless the heart be there.

2 Upon thine all-discerning ear
Let no vain words intrude;
No tribute but the vow sincere, —
The tribute of the good.

3 Our offerings will indeed be blest,
If sanctified by thee;
If thy pure Spirit touch the breast
With its own purity.

4 O, may that Spirit warm each heart
To piety and love,
And to life's lowly vale impart
Some rays from heaven above.

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3. P. M. H. WARE.

CALL TO PRAYER.

1 To prayer, to prayer! — for the morning breaks,
And earth in her Maker's smile awakes;
His light is on all below and above,
The light of gladness, and life, and love:
O, then, on the breath of this early air,
Send upward the incense of grateful prayer.

2 To prayer! — for the day that God has blest
Comes tranquilly on with its solemn rest;
It speaks of creation's early bloom, —
It speaks of the Prince who burst the tomb:
Then summon the spirit's exalted powers,
And devote to heaven the hallowed hours.

3 Awake, awake, and gird up thy strength,
To join Christ's holy band at length;
To him who unceasing love displays,
Whom the powers of nature unceasingly praise;
To him thy heart and thy hours be given,
For a life of prayer is the life of heaven.

4. P. M. ANONYMOUS.

"TEACH US TO PRAY."

1 TEACH us to pray!
O Father, we look up to thee,
And this our one request shall be,
Teach us to pray!

2 Teach us to pray!
A form of words will not suffice,
The heart must bring its sacrifice:
Teach us to pray!

3 Teach us to pray!
To whom shall we, thy children, turn?
Teach thou the lesson we would learn,
Teach us to pray!

4 Teach us to pray!
To thee alone our hearts look up,
Prayer is our only door of hope,
Teach us to pray!

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5. C. M. MONTGOMERY.

A PRAYER.

1 GOD of all grace, we come to thee,
With humble, prayerful hearts;
Give what thine eye delights to see,
Truth in the inward parts:

2 Give deep humility; the sense
Of holy sorrow give;
A strong, desiring confidence,
To hear thy voice and live:

3 Patience, to watch, and wait, and weep,
Though mercy long delay;
Courage, our fainting souls to keep,
And trust thee, though thou slay.

4 Give these,—and then thy will be done!
Thus strengthened with all might,
We, in the spirit of thy Son,
Shall pray, and pray aright.

6. 7 & 6s. M. ANONYMOUS.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

1 Go when the morning shineth,
Go when the noon is bright,
Go when the eve declineth,
Go in the hush of night;
Go with pure mind and feeling,
Put earthly thoughts away,
And, in God's presence kneeling,
Do thou in secret pray.

2 Remember all who love thee,
All who are loved by thee;
Pray, too, for those who hate thee,
If any such there be;
Then for thyself, in meekness,
A blessing humbly claim,
And blend with each petition
Thy great Redeemer's name.

3 Or, if 'tis e'er denied thee
In solitude to pray,
Should holy thoughts come o'er thee
When friends are round thy way,
E'en then, the silent breathing
Thy spirit lifts above
Will reach his throne of glory,
Where dwells eternal love.

4 O, not a joy or blessing
With this can we compare,—
The grace our Father gives us
To pour our souls in prayer:
Whene'er thou pin'st in sadness,
On Him who saveth call!
Remember, in thy gladness,
His love who gave thee all.

7. S. M. BRIGGS'S COLL.

SEASONS FOR PRAYER.

1 COME at the morning hour,
Come, let us kneel and pray;
Prayer is the Christian pilgrim's staff
To walk with God all day.

2 At noon, beneath the Rock
Of Ages, rest and pray;
Sweet is that shelter from the sun
In the weary heat of day.

3 At evening, in thy home,
Around its altar, pray;
And finding there the house of God,
With heaven then close the day.

4 When midnight veils our eyes,
O, it is sweet to say,
I sleep, but my heart waketh, Lord,
With thee to watch and pray.

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8. C. M. ANONYMOUS.

PEACE BE UNTO THIS HOUSE.

1 LORD of the families below!
To thee our prayers we send;
Do thou from danger and from woe
This dwelling-place defend.

2 Here let thy peace, O Father, rest;
Here let thy love abide!
Our every joy in thee more blest,
Each sorrow sanctified.

3 May our petitions, when we meet,
And every secret prayer,
Come up before thy mercy seat,
And find acceptance there.

4 Teach us, with hearts made one in love,
To do thy pure commands;
And give us, in thy time, above,
A house not made with hands.

9. C. M. ANONYMOUS.

FAMILY EVENING WORSHIP.

1 Now from the altar of our hearts
Let warmest thanks arise;
Assist us, Lord, to offer up
Our evening sacrifice.

2 This day our God has been our sun,
Our keeper and our guide,
His arm around our weakness thrown,
His angels at our side.

3 Moments and mercies multiplied
Have made up all the day;
Moments came fast, but mercies were
More swift and free than they.

4 New hours, new blessings, and new joys,
Do a new song require;
Till we can praise thee as we should,
Accept our hearts' desire!

---

10. 8 & 7s M. BOWRING.

GOD IS TRUTH AND LOVE.

1 God is love; his mercy brightens
All the path in which we move;
Bliss he wakes, and woe he lightens;
God is wisdom, God is love.

2 Chance and change are busy ever;
Man decays, and ages move;
But his mercy waneth never;
God is wisdom, God is love.

3 E'en the hour that darkest seemeth
Will his changeless goodness prove:
From the gloom his brightness streameth;
God is wisdom, God is love.

4 He with earthly cares intwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Every where his glory shineth;
God is wisdom, God is love.

11. L. M. BRYANT.

LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD.

1 FATHER, to thy kind love we owe
All that is fair and good below;
Bestower of the health that lies
On tearless cheeks and cheerful eyes!

2 Giver of sunshine and of rain!
Ripener of fruits on hill and plain!
Fountain of light, that rayed afar,
Fills the vast urns of sun and star!

3 Who send'st thy storms and frosts to bind
The plagues that rise to waste mankind;
Then breathest, o'er the naked scene,
Spring gales, and life, and tender green.

4 Yet deem we not that thus alone
Thy mercy and thy love are shown;
For we have learned with higher praise,
And holier names, to speak thy ways.

5 In woe's dark hour, our kindest stay!
Sole trust when life shall pass away!
Teacher of hopes that light the gloom
Of death, and consecrate the tomb!

---

12. 7s M. METHODIST.

GOD EVERY WHERE PRESENT.

1 THEY who seek the throne of grace
Find that throne in every place;
If we live a life of prayer,
God is present every where.

2 In our sickness and our health,
In our want, or in our wealth,
If we look to God in prayer,
God is present every where.

3 When our earthly comforts fail,
When the woes of life prevail,
'Tis the time for earnest prayer;—
God is present every where.

4 Then, my soul, in every strait
To thy Father come, and wait;
He will answer every prayer; —
God is present every where.

---

13. S. M. JOHNS.

THE KINGDOM OF LOVE.

1 COME, kingdom of our God,
Sweet reign of light and love!
Shed peace, and hope, and joy abroad,
And wisdom from above.

2 Over our spirits first
Extend thy healing reign;
There raise and quench the sacred thirst,
That never pains again.

3 Come, kingdom of our God,
And make the broad earth thine;
Stretch o'er her lands and isles the rod
That flowers with grace divine.

4 Soon may all tribes be blest
With fruit from life's glad tree;
And in its shade like brothers rest,
Sons of one family.

---

14. L. M. MRS. COTTERILL.

LIVING TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

1 O THOU, who hast at thy command
The hearts of all men in thy hand!
Our wayward, erring hearts incline
To know no other will but thine.

2 Our wishes, our desires control;
Mould every purpose of the soul;
O'er all may we victorious be
That stands between ourselves and thee.

3 Thrice blest will all our blessings be,
When we can look through them to thee;
When each glad heart its tribute pays
Of love, and gratitude, and praise.

4 And while we to thy glory live,
May we to thee all glory give,
Until the final summons come
That calls thy willing servants home.

---

15. C. M. DODDRIDGE.

DOING ALL TO GOD.

1 SHINE on our souls, eternal God,
With rays of beauty shine;
O, let thy favor crown our days,
And all their round be thine!

2 Did we not raise our hands to thee,
Our hands might toil in vain;
Small joy success itself could give,
If thou thy love restrain.

3 With thee let every week begin,
With thee each day be spent,
For thee each fleeting hour improved,
Since each by thee is lent.

4 'Midst hourly cares, may love present
Its incense at thy throne;
And while the world our hands employs,
Our hearts be thine alone.

---

16. L. M. HENRY MOORE.

MANLINESS AND FREEDOM.

1 SUPREME and universal Light!
Fountain of reason! Judge of right!
Parent of good! whose blessings flow
On all above, and all below:

2 Assist us, Lord, to act, to be,
What nature and thy laws decree;
Worthy that intellectual flame
Which from thy breathing spirit came.

3 Our moral freedom to maintain,
Bid passion serve, and reason reign,
Self-poised, and independent still
On this world's varying good or ill.

4 No slave to profit, shame, or fear,
O, may our steadfast bosoms bear
The stamp of heaven — an upright heart,
Above the mean disguise of art!

5 May our expanded souls disclaim
The narrow view, the selfish aim;
But with a Christian zeal embrace
Whate'er is friendly to our race.

6 O Father! grace and virtue grant;
No more we wish, no more we want;
To know, to serve thee, and to love,
Is peace below — is bliss above.

---

17. C. M. E. H. Sears.

THE BIRTH SONG OF CHRIST.

1 Calm on the listening ear of night
Come heaven's melodious strains,
Where wild Judea stretches far
Her silver-mantled plains!

2 Celestial choirs from courts above
Shed sacred glories there;
And angels, with their sparkling lyres,
Make music on the air.

3 The answering hills of Palestine
Send back the glad reply;
And greet, from all their holy heights,
The dayspring from on high.

4 O'er the blue depths of Galilee
There comes a holier calm;
And Sharon waves, in solemn praise,
Her silent groves of palm.

5 "Glory to God!" the sounding skies
Loud with their anthems ring,
"Peace to the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's eternal King!"

6 Light on thy hills, Jerusalem!
The Saviour now is born!
And bright on Bethlehem's joyous plains
Breaks the first Christmas morn.

---

18. S. M. NEEDHAM.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

1 BEHOLD, the Prince of Peace,
The chosen of the Lord,
God's well-beloved Son, fulfils
The sure prophetic word!

2 No royal pomp adorns
This King of Righteousness;
Meekness and patience, truth and love,
Compose his princely dress.

3 The Spirit of the Lord,
In rich abundance shed,
On this great Prophet gently lights,
And rests upon his head.

4 Jesus, the light of men!
His doctrine life imparts;
O, may we feel its quickening power
To warm and glad our hearts!

5 Cheered by its beams, our souls
Shall run the heavenly way;
The path which Christ has marked and trod
Will lead to endless day.

19. C. M. MRS. HEMANS.

CHRIST STILLING THE TEMPEST.

1 FEAR was within the tossing bark,
When stormy winds grew loud;
And waves came rolling high and dark,
And the tall mast was bowed.

2 But the wind ceased,—it ceased,—a word
Passed through the gloomy sky;
The troubled billows knew their Lord,
And sank beneath his eye.

3 And slumber settled on the deep,
And silence on the blast;
They sank as flowers that fold to sleep
When sultry day is past.

4 O Thou that in its wildest hour
Didst rule the tempest's mood,
Send now thy Spirit forth in power
O'er our dark souls to brood!

5 Thou that didst bow the billows' pride,
Thy mandate to fulfil,
Speak, speak to passion's raging tide,
Speak, and say, "Peace, be still!"

---

20. 7s. M. ANONYMOUS.

THE MIND WHICH WAS IN CHRIST JESUS.

1 EVER patient, loving, meek,
Holy Saviour, was thy mind;
Vainly in myself I seek
Likeness to my Lord to find;
Yet the mind that was in thee
May be, must be, formed in me.

2 Since such griefs were thine to bear,
For each sufferer thou couldst feel,
Every mourner's burden share,
Every wounded spirit heal.
Saviour, let thy grace in me
Form that mind which was in thee.

3 When my pain is most intense,
Let thy cross my lesson prove;
Let me hear thee even thence,
Breathing words of peace and love;
Thus thy grace shall form in me
The same mind which was in thee.

---

21. L. M. DODDRIDGE.

"THY WILL, NOT MINE, BE DONE."

1 "FATHER divine!" the Saviour cried,
While horrors pressed on every side,
And prostrate on the ground he lay,
"Remove this bitter cup away.

2 "But if these pangs must still be borne,
Or helpless man be left forlorn,
I bow my soul before thy throne,
And say,—Thy will, not mine, be done!"

3 Thus our submissive souls would bow,
And, taught by Jesus, lie as low;
Our hearts, and not our lips alone,
Would say,—Thy will, not ours, be done!

---

22. P. M. H. WARE.

EASTER HYMN.

1 LIFT your glad voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and man cannot die.
Vain were the terrors that gathered around him,
And short the dominion of death and the grave;
He burst from the fetters of darkness that bound him,
Resplendent in glory, to live and to save.
Loud was the chorus of angels on high,—
"The Saviour hath risen, and man shall not die."

2 Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;
The being he gave us death cannot destroy.

Sad were the life we must part with to-morrow,
If tears were our birthright, and death were our end;
But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow,
And bade us, immortal, to heaven ascend.
Lift, then, your voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and man shall not die.

---

23. L. M. WATTS.

THE DIVINE EXAMPLE.

1 My dear Redeemer, and my Lord,
I read my duty in thy word;
But in thy life the law appears
Drawn out in living characters.

2 Such was thy truth, and such thy zeal,
Such deference to thy Father's will,
Such love, and meekness so divine,
I would transcribe, and make them mine.

3 Cold mountains, and the midnight air,
Witnessed the fervor of thy prayer;
The desert thy temptations knew,
Thy conflict, and thy victory too.

4 Be thou my pattern; may I bear
More of thy gracious image here;
And, by the paths which thou hast trod,
Press on to holiness and God.

---

24. C. M. MONTGOMERY.

"IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

1 According to thy gracious word,
In meek humility,
This will I do, my dying Lord,
I will remember thee.

2 Thy body, broken for my sake,
My bread from heaven shall be;
Thy testamental cup I take,
And thus remember thee.

3 Gethsemane can I forget?
Or there thy conflict see,
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
And not remember thee?

4 When to the cross I turn mine eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice!
I must remember thee;—

5 Remember thee, and all thy pains,
And all thy love to me;
Yea, while a breath, a pulse remains,
Will I remember thee.

---

25. 7s. M. MONTGOMERY.

MADE PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING.

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
Ye that feel temptation's power,
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away,
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray!

2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the griefs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of him to bear the cross!

3 Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
There, admiring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
Love's own sacrifice complete;
"*It is finished*," hear him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die!

26. 7s. M. PRATT'S COL.

BREAD OF HEAVEN.

1 BREAD of heaven, on thee we feed,
For thy flesh is meat indeed;
Ever let our souls be fed
With this true and living bread.

2 Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
This blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give;
To thy cross we look and live.

3 Day by day with strength supplied,
Through the life of him who died,
Lord of life, O, let us be
Rooted, grafted, built on thee!

---

27. C. M. ANONYMOUS.

ONE IN CHRIST.

1 A HOLY air is breathing round,
A fragrance from above;
Be every soul from sense unbound,
Be every spirit love.

2 O God, unite us heart to heart,
In sympathy divine,
That we be never drawn apart,
And love not thee nor thine;

3 But, by the cross of Jesus taught,
And all thy gracious word,
Be nearer to each other brought,
And nearer to the Lord.

28. 7s. M. WESLEYAN.

COMMUNION HYMN.

1 PARTNERS of a glorious hope,
Lift your hearts and voices up!
Nobly let us bear the strife,
Keep the holiness of life;

2 Still forget the things behind,
Follow Christ in heart and mind,
To the mark unwearied press,
Seize the crown of righteousness.

3 Jesus, fill us with thy love,
Never from our souls remove,
Heart to heart unite and bless,
Keep us in thy perfect peace!

4 In our lives our faith be known,
Faith by holy actions shown;
Faith that mountains can remove,
Faith that always works by love.

---

29. L. M. EMILY TAYLOR.

THY KINGDOM COME.

1 "THY kingdom come!" The heathen lands,
In error sunk, thy presence crave;
And victims bound by tyrant hands
Implore thee, Father, come and save!

2 "Thy kingdom come!" Each troubled mind
In doubt and darkness calls for thee;
For thou hast eyes to give the blind,
And strength to set the captive free.

3 Thy reign of peace and love begin!
Too oft the Christian's sacred name
Is stained by wrath and shamed by sin;
O, come, assert the gospel's claim!

4 O, never in that righteous cause
Our hearts be slow, our voices dumb;
Upon the glorious theme we pause,
And fervent pray, "Thy kingdom come!"

30. C. M. BULFINCH.

"THAT THEY MAY BE ONE."

1 WAS it in vain that Jesus prayed
For those he came to save,
When darkly o'er his path was laid
The shadow of the grave?

2 Hath Jesus loved and prayed in vain?
O doubting heart, be still!
Yet holds the Lord his glorious reign,
Despite of wrong and ill.

3 Though nations with their battle cries
Profane th' Almighty's name,
Though bigots to the offended skies
Their own wild wrath proclaim,—

4 Thousands, in every Christian land,
Have never bowed the knee
In worship to the idol band
Of strife and perfidy.

5 And these are one;—though some may bend
Before the Virgin's shrine,
While others' prayers and thanks ascend,
Father, alone at thine,—

6 Yet they are one; if through their hearts
The soul of love be poured,
As swells some strain of various parts,
Yet all in sweet accord.

---

31. C. M. GASKELL.

PEACE.

1 How long, O Lord, his brother's blood
Shall man in battle spill?
How long that mandate be withstood,
Which cries, "Thou shalt not kill"?

2 How long shall glory still be found
In scenes of cruel strife,
Where misery walks, a giant crowned,
Crushing the flowers of life?

3 O, hush, great God, the sounds of war,
And make thy children feel
That he, with thee, is noblest far,
Who toils for human weal; —

4 And though forgotten, he alone
Can be a Christian true
Who would his foes as brethren own,
And still their good pursue.

---

32. 7s. M. MONTGOMERY.

THE LIBERTY OF THE SONS OF GOD.

1 GOD made all his creatures free;
Life itself is liberty;
God ordained no other bands
Than united hearts and hands.

2 Sin the primal charter broke, —
Sin, itself earth's heaviest yoke;
Tyranny with sin began,
Man o'er brute, and man o'er man.

3 But a better day shall be,
Life again be liberty,
And the wide world's only bands
Love-knit hearts and love-linked hands.

4 So shall every slavery cease,
All God's children dwell in peace,
And the new-born earth record
Love, and Love alone, is Lord.

---

33. S. M. ANONYMOUS.

THE SPIRIT SAITH "COME!"

1 THE Spirit in our hearts
Is whispering, "Wanderer, come!"
The Bride, the church of Christ, proclaims
To all his children, "Come!"

2 Let him that heareth say
To all about him, "Come!"
Let him that thirsts for righteousness,
To Christ, the fountain, come!

3 Yes, whosoever will,
O, let him freely come,
And freely drink the stream of life;
'Tis Jesus bids him come.

4 Lo! Jesus, who invites,
Declares, "I quickly come!"
Lord, even so! I wait thine hour;
Jesus, my Saviour, come!

---

34. C. M. MILMAN.

PRAYER FOR HELP.

1 O, HELP us, Lord! each hour of need
Thy heavenly succor give;
Help us in thought, in word, in deed,
Each hour on earth we live.

2 O, help us, when our spirits bleed,
With doubt and anguish sore;
And when our hearts are cold and dead,
O, help us, Lord, the more.

3 O, help us, through the prayer of faith,
More firmly to believe;
For still the more the servant hath,
The more shall he receive.

4 O, help us, Father! from on high;
We know no help but thee;
O, help us so to live and die,
As thine in heaven to be!

35. L. M. MONTGOMERY.

THE SOUL'S REST.

1 RETURN, my soul, unto thy rest,
From vain pursuits and maddening cares;
From lonely woes that wring thy breast,
The world's allurements, toils, and snares.

2 Return unto thy rest, my soul,
From all the wanderings of thy thought;
From sickness unto death made whole;
Safe through a thousand perils brought.

3 Then to thy rest, my soul, return,
From passions every hour at strife;
Sin's works, and ways, and wages spurn,
Lay hold upon eternal life.

4 God is thy rest; with heart inclined
To keep his word, that word believe;
Christ is thy rest; with lowly mind
His light and easy yoke receive.

---

36. L. M. C. WESLEY.

SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

1 I WANT the spirit of power within,
Of love, and of a healthful mind;
Of power to conquer every sin;
Of love to God and all mankind;
Of health that pain and death defies,
Most vigorous when the body dies.

2 O that the Comforter would come,
Nor visit as a transient guest,
But fix in me his constant home,
And keep possession of my breast;
And make my soul his loved abode,
The temple of indwelling God!

37. S. M. BULFINCH.

BORN AGAIN.

1 O LORD! through thee we own
A new and heavenly birth,
Kindred to spirits round thy throne,
Though sojourners of earth.

2 How glorious is the hour
When first our souls awake,
Through thy mysterious Spirit's power,
And of new life partake.

3 With richer beauty glows
The world, before so fair;
Her holy light Religion throws,
Reflected every where.

4 The life which thou hast given,
O Lord! shall never end;
The grave is but the path to heaven,
And death is now our friend.

---

38. S. M. KEBLE.

THE PURE IN HEART.

1 BLEST are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs;
Their soul is his abode.

2 Still to the lowly soul
God doth himself impart,
And for his temple and his throne
Doth choose the pure in heart.

39. L. M. MRS. LIVERMORE.

REDEEMING POWER OF LOVE.

1 WHAT precept, Jesus, is like thine,—
Forgive, as ye would be forgiven!
In this we see the power divine,
Which shall transform our earth to heaven.

2 O, not the harsh and scornful word
The victory over sin can gain,
Not the dark prison, or the sword,
The shackle, or the weary chain.

3 But from our spirits there must flow
A love that will the wrong outweigh;
Our lips must only blessings know,
And wrath and sin shall die away.

4 'Twas Heaven that formed the holy plan
To win the wanderer back by love;
Thus let us save our brother, man,
And imitate our God above.

---

40. S. M. MONTGOMERY.

SEEKING REST.

1 O, WHERE shall rest be found,
Rest for the weary soul?
'Twere vain the ocean depths to sound,
Or pierce to either pole:

2 The world can never give
The rest for which we sigh;
'Tis not the whole of life to live,
Nor all of death to die.

3 In Thee we end our quest;
Alone are found in thee
The life of perfect love — the rest
Of immortality.

41. L. M. MISS BREMER.

THIRST FOR LIVING WATERS.

1 I THIRST! — O, grant the waters pure
Which they who drink shall thirst no more;
O, give me of that living stream,
Which ever flows, with heavenly gleam,
Forth from the presence of our God,
Through fields by holy angels trod!

2 I thirst! — O bounteous Source of truth,
Give coolness to my fevered youth;
Make the sick heart more strong and wise;
Take spectral visions from mine eyes;
O, let me quench my thirst in thee,
And pure, and strong, and holy be!

3 I thirst! — O God, great Source of love!
Infinite life streams from above.
O, give one drop, and let me live!
The barren world has nought to give;
No solace have its streams for me;
I thirst alone for heaven and thee.

---

42. S. M. C. WESLEY.

ASPIRATION.

1 O, COME and dwell in me,
Spirit of power within!
And bring thy glorious liberty
From sorrow, fear, and sin.

2 The inward, deep disease,
Spirit of health remove!
Spirit of perfect holiness!
Spirit of perfect love!

3 Hasten the joyful day
Which shall all sin consume;
When old things shall be done away,
And all things new become!

43. 7s. M. COWPER.

THE CROSS.

1 'Tis my happiness below
Not to live without the cross,
But the Saviour's power to know,
Sanctifying every loss:
Trials must and will befall;
But with humble faith to see
Love inscribed upon them all,—
This is happiness to me.

2 God in Israel sows the seeds
Of affliction, pain, and toil;
These spring up, and choke the weeds
Which would else o'erspread the soil;
Trials make our faith sublime,
Trials give new life to prayer,
Lift us to a holier clime,
Make us strong to do and bear.

---

44. 7s. M. ANONYMOUS.

THE PRODIGAL.

1 Brother, hast thou wandered far
From thy Father's happy home,
With thyself and God at war?
Turn thee, brother, homeward come!

2 Hast thou wasted all the powers
God for noble uses gave?
Squandered life's most golden hours?
Turn thee, brother, God can save!

3 Is a mighty famine now
In thy heart and in thy soul?
Discontent upon thy brow?
Turn thee, God will make thee whole!

4 He can heal thy bitterest wound,
He thy gentlest prayer can hear;
Seek him, for he may be found;
Call upon him, he is near.

45. 7s. M. JOHN TAYLOR.

A PENITENTIAL HYMN.

1 GOD of mercy! God of love!
Hear our sad, repentant songs:
Listen to thy suppliant ones,
Thou, to whom all grace belongs!

2 Deep regret for follies past,
Talents wasted, time misspent;
Hearts debased by worldly cares,
Thankless for the blessings lent;—

3 Foolish fears and fond desires,
Vain regrets for things as vain;
Lips too seldom taught to praise,
Oft to murmur and complain;—

4 These, and every secret fault,
Filled with grief and shame, we own;
Humbled at thy feet we bow,
Seeking pardon from thy throne.

5 God of mercy! God of love!
Hear our sad, repentant songs;
O, restore thy suppliant ones,
Thou, to whom all grace belongs!

---

46. C. M. FURNESS.

THE PENITENT SON.

1 O, RICHLY, Father, have I been
Blest evermore by thee!
And morning, noon, and night thou hast
Preserved me tenderly.

2 And yet the love which thou shouldst claim
To idols I have given;
Too oft have bound to earth the hopes
That know no home but heaven.

3 Unworthy to be called thy son,
I come with shame to thee,
Father!—O, more than Father thou
Hast always been to me!

4 Help me to break the heavy chains
The world has round me thrown,
And know the glorious liberty
Of an obedient son.

5 That I may henceforth heed whate'er
Thy voice within me saith,
Fix deeply in my heart of hearts
A principle of faith, —

6 Faith that, like armor to my soul,
Shall keep all evil out,
More mighty than an angel host,
Encamping round about.

---

47. S. M. DODDRIDGE.

I SAY UNTO YOU, WATCH!

1 Ye servants of the Lord!
Each in your office wait,
Observant of his heavenly word,
And watchful at his gate.

2 Let all your lamps be bright,
And trim the golden flame:
Gird up your loins, as in his sight;
For holy is his name.

3 Watch! 'tis your Lord's command;
And while we speak, he's near:
Mark the first signal of his hand,
And ready all appear.

4 O, happy servant he
In such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
And be with honor crowned.

48. 7s. M. W. Roscoe.

THE GOLDEN RULE.

1 Thus said Jesus: — "Go and do
As thou wouldst be done unto:"
Here thy perfect duty see,
All that God requires of thee.

2 Wouldst thou, when thy faults are known,
Wish that pardon should be shown?
Be forgiving, then, and do
As thou wouldst be done unto.

3 Shouldst thou helpless be and poor,
Wouldst thou not for aid implore?
Think of others, then, and be
What thou wouldst they should to thee.

4 For compassion if thou call,
Be compassionate to all;
If thou wouldst affection find,
Be affectionate and kind.

5 If thou wouldst obtain the love
Of thy gracious God above,
Then to all his children be
What thou wouldst they should to thee.

---

49. C. M. Jones Very.

AS YE SOW, SO SHALL YE REAP.

1 The bud will soon become a flower,
The flower become a seed;
Then seize, O youth, the present hour, —
Of that thou hast most need.

2 Do thy best always, — do it now, —
For in the present time,
As in the furrows of a plough,
Fall seeds of good or crime.

3 The sun and rain will ripen fast
Each seed that thou hast sown;
And every act and word at last
By its own fruit be known.

4 And soon the harvest of thy toil,
Rejoicing, thou shalt reap;
Or o'er thy wild, neglected soil,
Go forth in shame to weep.

---

50. L. M. DODDRIDGE.

FORMS VAIN WITHOUT THE SPIRIT.

1 THE uplifted eye and bended knee
Are but vain homage, Lord, to thee:
In vain our lips thy praise prolong,
The heart a stranger to the song.

2 Can rites, and forms, and flaming zeal,
The breaches of thy precepts heal?
Or fasts and penance reconcile
Thy justice, and obtain thy smile?

3 The pure, the humble, contrite mind,
Sincere, and to thy will resigned,
To thee a nobler offering yields
Than Sheba's groves, or Sharon's fields.

4 Love God and man,—this great command
Doth on eternal pillars stand;
This did thine ancient prophets teach,
And this thy Well-beloved preach.

---

51. C. M. M. B. LAMAR.

THE CHRISTIAN REFORMER.

1 NAY, tell us not of dangers dire
That lie in duty's path;
A warrior of the cross can feel
No fear of human wrath.

2 Where'er the prince of darkness holds
His earthly reign abhorred,
Sword of the Spirit, thee we draw,
And battle for the Lord.

3 We go! we go, to break the chains
That bind the erring mind,
And give the freedom that we feel
To all of humankind.

4 But, O, we wear no burnished steel,
And seek no gory field;
Our weapon is the word of God,
His promise is our shield.

5 And still serene and fixed in faith,
We fear no earthly harm;
We know it is our Father's work,
We rest upon his arm.

---

52. 8 & 7s. M. LONGFELLOW.

PSALM OF LIFE.

1 TELL me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream;
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

2 Life is real! life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

3 Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end and way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us further than to-day.

4 Lives of true men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

5 Footprints which perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

6 Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

---

53. 8 & 7s. M.

THE CONFLICT OF LIFE.

1 ONWARD, Christian, though the region
Where thou art be drear and lone;
God hath set a guardian legion
Very near thee, — press thou on!

2 Listen, Christian, their hosanna
Rolleth o'er thee, — "God is Love."
Write upon thy red-cross banner,
"Upward ever, — heaven's above."

3 By the thorn road, and none other,
Is the mount of vision won;
Tread it without shrinking, brother!
Jesus trod it, — press thou on!

4 By thy trustful, calm endeavor,
Guiding, cheering, like the sun,
Earth-bound hearts thou shalt deliver;
O, for their sake, press thou on!

5 Be this world the wiser, stronger,
For thy life of pain and peace;
While it needs thee, O, no longer
Pray thou for thy quick release;

6 Pray thou, Christian, daily, rather,
That thou be a faithful son;
By the prayer of Jesus, — "Father,
Not my will, but thine, be done!"

54. C. M. ANONYMOUS.

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF THE LORD.

1 O, SPEED thee, Christian, on thy way!
And to thine armor cling;
With girded loins the call obey
That love and mercy bring!

2 There is a battle to be fought,
An upward race to run,
A crown of glory to be sought,
A victory to be won.

3 O, faint not, Christian! for thy sighs
Are heard before God's throne;
The race must come before the prize,
The cross before the crown.

---

55. C. M. MISS FLETCHER.

KINDLY JUDGMENT.

1 THINK gently of the erring one!
O, let us not forget
However darkly stained by sin,
He is our brother yet!
Heir of the same inheritance,
Child of the selfsame God,
He hath but stumbled in the path
We have in weakness trod.

2 Speak gently to the erring ones!
We yet may lead them back,
With holy words, and tones of love,
From misery's thorny track.
Forget not, brother, thou hast sinned,
And sinful yet mayst be;
Deal gently with the erring heart,
As God hath dealt with thee.

56. C. M. ANONYMOUS.

SPEAK GENTLY.

1 SPEAK gently, — it is better far
To rule by love than fear;
Speak gently, — let no harsh word mar
The good we may do here.

2 Speak gently to the young, — for they
Will have enough to bear;
Pass through this life as best they may,
'Tis full of anxious care.

3 Speak gently to the aged one,
Grieve not the care-worn heart;
The sands of life are nearly run,
Let them in peace depart.

4 Speak gently to the erring ones;
They must have toiled in vain;
Perchance unkindness made them so;
O, win them back again!

5 Speak gently, — 'tis a little thing,
Dropped in the heart's deep well;
The good, the joy, that it may bring,
Eternity shall tell.

---

57. L. M. SCOTT.

CHARITABLE JUDGMENT.

1 ALL-SEEING God! 'tis thine to know
The springs whence wrong opinions flow, —
To judge, from principles within,
When frailty errs, and when we sin.

2 Who, among men, great Lord of all,
Thy servant to his bar shall call?
Judge him, for modes of faith, thy foe?
Or doom him to the realms of woe?

3 Who with another's eye can read,
Or worship by another's creed?
Trusting thy grace, we form our own,
And bow to thy commands alone.

4 If wrong, correct; accept, if right;
While, faithful, we improve our light,
Condemning none, but zealous still
To learn and follow all thy will.

---

58. 9 & 4s. M. BOWRING.

THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE.

1 'Tis not the gift, but 'tis the spirit
With which 'tis given,
That on the gift confers a merit,
As seen by Heaven.

2 'Tis not the prayer, however boldly
It strikes the ear;
It mounts in vain, it falls but coldly,
If not sincere.

3 'Tis not the deeds the loudest lauded
That brightest shine;
There's many a virtue unapplauded,
And yet divine.

4 'Tis not the word that sounds the sweetest
That's soonest heard;
A sigh, when humbled thou retreatest,
May be preferred.

5 The outward show may be delusive,—
A cheating name;
The inner spirit is conclusive
Of worth or shame.

---

59. P. M. MOORE.

COME, YE DISCONSOLATE.

1 COME, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;
Come, at the shrine of God fervently kneel!
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

2 Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
Hope, when all others die, fadeless and pure,
Here speaks the Comforter, in God's name saying,
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot cure.

3 Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing
Forth from the throne of God, living and pure;
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot cure.

---

60. L. M. BOWRING.

RESIGNATION.

1 O, LET my trembling soul be still,
While darkness veils this mortal eye,
And wait thy wise and holy will,
Though wrapped in fears and mystery:
I cannot, Lord, thy purpose see;
Yet all is well, since ruled by thee!

2 When, mounted on thy clouded car,
Thou send'st thy darker spirits down,
I can discern thy light afar,
Thy light sweet beaming through their frown;
And, should I faint a moment, then
I think of thee, and smile again.

3 So, trusting in thy love, I tread
The narrow path of duty on;
What though some cherished joys are fled?
What though some flattering dreams are gone?
Yet purer, nobler joys remain,
And peace is won through conquered pain.

---

61. P. M. BOWRING.

THY WILL BE DONE!

1 THY will be done! In devious way
The hurrying stream of life may run;
Yet still our grateful hearts shall say,
Thy will be done!

2 Thy will be done! If o'er us shine
A gladdening and a prosperous sun,
This prayer shall make it more divine: —
Thy will be done!

3 Thy will be done! Though shrouded o'er
Our path with gloom, one comfort, one,
Is ours, — to breathe, while we adore,
Thy will be done!

---

62. L. M. NORTON.

FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS.

1 FAINT not, poor traveller, though the way
Be rough, like that thy Saviour trod;
Though cold and stormy lower the day,
This path of suffering leads to God.

2 Nay, sink not, though from every limb
Are starting drops of toil and pain;
Thou dost but share the lot of Him
With whom his followers are to reign.

3 Christian! thy Friend, thy Master, prayed,
While dread and anguish shook his frame,
Then met his sufferings undismayed;
Wilt thou not strive to do the same?

4 O, thinkest thou his Father's love
Shone round him then with fainter rays
Than now, when, throned all height above,
Unceasing voices hymn his praise?

5 Go, sufferer, calmly meet the woes
Which God's own mercy bids thee bear;
Then, rising as thy Saviour rose,
Go, his eternal victory share.

63. L. M. BRYANT.

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN.

1 DEEM not that they are blest alone
Whose days a peaceful tenor keep;
The God who loves our race has shown
A blessing for the eyes that weep.

2 The light of smiles shall fill again
The lids that now o'erflow with tears,
And weary hours of woe and pain
Are earnests of serener years.

3 O, there are days of hope and rest
For every dark and troubled night!
And grief may bide an evening guest,
But joy shall come with morning light.

4 And ye who, o'er a friend's low bier,
Now shed the bitter drops like rain,
Know that a brighter, happier sphere
Will give him to your arms again.

---

64. P. M. MRS. HEMANS.

THE CRY OF THE AFFLICTED.

1 LOWLY and solemn be
Thy children's cry to thee,
Father divine!
A hymn of suppliant breath,
Owning that life and death
Alike are thine.

2 O Father, in that hour
When earth all helping power
Shall disavow;
When spear, and shield, and crown
In faintness are cast down,
Sustain us thou!

3 By Him who bowed to take
The death cup for our sake,
The thorn, the rod;
From whom the last dismay
Was not to pass away,
Aid us, O God!

4 And now beside the grave,
We call on thee to save,
Father divine!
Hear, hear our suppliant breath;
Keep us, in life and death,
Thine, only thine!

---

65. S. M. Briggs's Coll.

THE ANGELS' CALL.

1 Come to the land of peace!
From shadows come away;
Where all the sounds of weeping cease,
And storms no more have sway.

2 Fear hath no dwelling here;
But pure repose and love
Breathe through the bright, celestial air,
The spirit of the dove.

3 Come to the bright and blest,
Gathered from every land;
For here thy soul shall find its rest,
Amidst the shining band.

4 In this divine abode
Change leaves no saddening trace;
Come, trusting spirit, to thy God,
Thy holy resting-place!

66. 7s. M. FURNESS.

MORNING HYMN.

1 In the morning I will pray
For God's blessing on the day;
What this day shall be my lot,
Light or darkness, know I not.

2 Should it be with clouds o'ercast,
Clouds of sorrow, gathering fast,
Thou, who givest light divine,
Shine within me, Lord, O, shine!

3 Show me, if I tempted be,
How to find all strength in thee,
And a perfect triumph win
Over every bosom sin.

4 Keep my feet from secret snares,
Keep mine eyes, O God, from tears!
Every step thy love attend,
And my soul from death defend!

---

67. L. M. MONTGOMERY.

SABBATH EVENING.

1 Within thy courts have millions met,
Millions this day before thee bowed;
Their faces heavenward were set,
Their vows to thee, O God, they vowed.

2 Still as the light of morning broke
O'er island, continent, and deep,
Thy far-spread family awoke,
Sabbath all round the world to keep.

3 From east to west the sun surveyed,
From north to south, adoring throngs;
And still where evening stretched her shade,
The stars came forth to hear their songs.

4 And not a prayer, a tear, a sigh,
Hath failed this day some suit to gain;
To hearts that sought thee thou wast nigh,
Nor hath one sought thy face in vain.

5 The poor in spirit thou hast fed,
The feeble soul hath strengthened been,
The mourner thou hast comforted,
The pure in heart their God have seen.

6 And thou, soul-searching God! hast known
The hearts of all that bent the knee,
And all their prayers have reached thy throne,
In soul and truth who worshipped thee.

---

68. C. M. BREVIARY.

OUR GUARD BY NIGHT.

1 LORD of the world, who hast preserved
Us safely through this day,
Now guard us in the silent night,
And in all time, we pray!

2 Be present, in thy peace, to those
Who as thy suppliants wait;
Blot out the record of our sin;
Our gloom illuminate!

3 Let not, amid our hours of sleep,
Life's enemy steal in;
Let not a vision of the night
Have power to whisper sin.

4 Guard every avenue from guile,
When slumber seals our eyes;
And guiltless as we laid us down,
So guiltless let us rise.

---

69. L. M. PIERPONT.

MORNING HYMN FOR A CHILD.

1 O GOD! I thank thee that the night
In peace and rest hath passed away,
And that I see in this fair light
My Father's smile, that makes it day.

2 Be thou my guide, and let me live
As under thine all-seeing eye;
Supply my wants, my sins forgive,
And make me happy when I die.

---

70. L. M. PIERPONT.

EVENING HYMN FOR A CHILD.

1 ANOTHER day its course hath run,
And still, O God, thy child is blest;
For thou hast been by day my sun,
And thou wilt be by night my rest.

2 Sweet sleep descends, mine eyes to close;
And now, while all the world is still,
I give my body to repose,
My spirit to my Father's will.

---

71. L. M. ANONYMOUS.

A CHILD'S PRAYER.

1 GREAT God! and wilt thou condescend
To be my Father and my Friend?
I but a child, — and thou so high,
The Lord of earth, and air, and sky!

2 Art thou my Father? — Let me be
A meek, obedient child to thee;
And try, in word, and deed, and thought,
To serve and please thee as I ought.

3 Art thou my Father? — I'll depend
Upon the care of such a friend;
And only wish to do and be
Whatever seemeth good to thee.

4 Art thou my Father? — Then, at last,
When all my days on earth are past,
Send down, and take me, in thy love,
To be thy better child above.

72. L. M. L. E. LANDON.

FEED MY LAMBS.

1 WHILE yet the youthful spirit bears
The image of its God within,
And uneffaced that beauty wears,
Which may too soon be stained by sin;

2 Then is the time for faith and love
To take in charge their precious care,—
Teach the young heart to look above,
Teach the young lips to speak in prayer.

3 The world will come with care and crime,
And tempt too oft that heart astray;
Still the seed sown in early time
Shall not be wholly cast away.

4 The infant prayer, the infant hymn,
Within the darkened soul will rise,
When age's weary eye is dim,
And the grave's shadow round us lies.

5 The infant hymn is heard again,
The infant prayer is breathed once more;
Reclasping thus the broken chain,
We turn to all we loved before.

---

73. C. M. GASKELL.

A NEW YEAR.

1 OUR Father! through the coming year
We know not what shall be,
But we would leave without a fear
Its ordering all to thee.

2 It may be we shall toil in vain
For what the world holds fair,
And all its good we thought to gain
Deceive, and prove but care.

3 It may be it shall darkly blend
Our love with anxious fears,
And snatch away the valued friend,
The tried of many years.

4 It may be it shall bring us days
And nights of lingering pain,
And bid us take our farewell gaze
Of these loved haunts of men.

5 But calmly, Lord, on thee we rest;
No fears our trust shall move;
Thou knowest what for each is best,
And thou art perfect love.

---

74. C. M. ANONYMOUS.

SEED TIME AND HARVEST SHALL NOT CEASE.

1 FOUNTAIN of life, and God of love!
How rich thy bounties are!
The rolling seasons, as they move,
Proclaim thy constant care.

2 When in the bosom of the earth
The sower hid the grain,
Thy goodness marked its secret birth,
And sent the early rain.

3 The spring's sweet influence, Lord, was thine,
Its mild, refreshing showers;
Thou gav'st the ripening suns to shine,
And summer's golden hours.

4 Thy quickening life, forever near,
Matured the swelling grain;—
The bounteous harvest crowns the year,
And plenty fills the plain.

5 With thankful hearts we trace thy way
Through all our smiling vales;
Thou by whose love nor night nor day,
Seed time nor harvest, fails!

75. C. M. GASKELL.

CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

1 O GOD! to thee our hearts would pay
Their gratitude sincere,
Whose love hath kept us, night and day,
Throughout another year.

2 Of every breath, and every power,
Thou wast the gracious source;
From thee came every happy hour
Which smiled along its course.

3 And if sometimes across our path
A cloud its shadows threw,
Thou didst not waft it there in wrath,
But loving kindness true.

4 For joy and grief alike we pay
Our thanks to thee above;
And only pray to grow each day
More worthy of thy love.

---

76. C. M. DALE.

"WEEP NOT."

1 DEAR as thou wast, and justly dear,
We would not weep for thee;
One thought shall check the starting tear, —
It is — that thou art free.

2 And thus shall faith's consoling power
The tears of love restrain;
O, who that saw thy parting hour
Could wish thee here again?

3 Gently the passing spirit fled,
Sustained by grace divine;
O, may such grace on us be shed,
And make our end like thine!

77. 7 & 6s. M. E. H. CHAPIN.

TRIUMPH OF TEMPERANCE.

1 Now, host with host assembling,
The victory we win;
Lo! on his throne sits trembling
That old and giant Sin;
Like chaff by strong winds scattered
His banded strength has gone,
His charméd cup lies shattered,
And still the cry is — "On."

2 Our fathers' God, our Keeper!
Be thou our strength divine!
Thou sendest forth the reaper,
The harvest all is thine.
Roll on, roll on this gladness,
Till, driven from every shore,
The drunkard's sin and madness
Shall smite the earth no more!

---

78. P. M. MRS. SOUTHEY.

THE MARINER'S HYMN.

1 LAUNCH thy bark, mariner!
Christian, God speed thee!
Let loose the rudder bands,
Good angels lead thee!
Set thy sails warily,
Tempests will come;
Steer thy course steadily,
Christian, steer home!

2 Look to the weather bow,
Breakers are round thee;
Let fall thy plummet now,
Shallows may ground thee.
Reef in thy foresail there;
Hold the helm fast;
So, — let the vessel wear, —
By swept the blast.

3 Slacken no sail yet, at
Inlet or island;
Straight for the beacon steer,—
Straight for the highland;
Crowd all the canvas on,
Cut through the foam;—
Christian! cast anchor now;
Heaven is thy home!

---

79. 8 & 6s. M. HEBER.

PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY.

1 FROM foes that would our land devour;
From guilty pride and lust of power;
From wild sedition's lawless hour;
From yoke of slavery;

2 From blinded zeal, by faction led;
From giddy change, by fancy bred;
From poisoned error's serpent head;
Good Lord, preserve us free!

---

80. 6 & 4s. M. E. DAVIS.

FOR A PEACE MEETING.

1 NOT with the flashing steel,
Not with the cannon's peal,
Or stir of drum;
But in the bonds of love,
Our white flag floats above;
Her emblem is the dove;—
'Tis thus we come.

2 The laws of Christian light,—
These are our weapons bright,
Our mighty shield;
Christ is our leader high;
And the broad plains which lie
Beneath the blessed sky
Our battle field.

3 What is that great intent
On which each heart is bent,
Our hosts among?
It is that hate may die,
That war's red curse may fly,
And war's high praise for aye
No more be sung.

4 On, then, in God's great name!
Let each pure spirit's flame
Burn bright and clear;
Stand firmly in your lot,
Cry ye aloud, doubt not,
Be every fear forgot;
Christ leads us here!

5 So shall earth's distant lands,
In happy, holy bands,
One brotherhood,
Together rise and sing,
Gifts to one altar bring,
And heaven's eternal King
Pronounce it good.

---

81. C. M. ANONYMOUS.

GLORY TO GOD, THROUGH PEACE ON EARTH.

1 "To God be glory! peace on earth!"
Let us repeat again
The hymn that hailed the Saviour's birth,—
"Peace and good will to men!"

2 Good will to men! O God, we hail
This of thy law the sum;
For as this shall o'er earth prevail,
So shall thy kingdom come!

82. 7s. M. C. Wesley.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

1 Lord! subdue our selfish will;
Each to each our tempers suit,
By thy modulating skill,
Heart to heart, as lute to lute.

2 Sweetly on our spirits move;
Gently touch the trembling strings:
Make the harmony of love
Music for the King of kings!

---

83. 7s. M. Wesleyan.

CHRISTIAN LOVE.

1 Father! we look up to thee;
Let us in thy love agree;
Thou, who art the God of peace,
Bid contention ever cease.

2 Make us of one heart and mind,
Self-forgetful, true, and kind;
Strong, yet meek in thought and word,
Like thy Son, our blesséd Lord.

3 Let us for each other care,
Each the other's burden bear;
Ready, when reviled, to bless;
Studious of the law of peace.

4 Father! all our souls inspire,
Fill us with love's sacred fire;
Guided by that blesséd light,
Order all our steps aright.

5 Free from anger, free from pride,
Let us thus in thee abide;
All the depths of love express,—
All the heights of holiness.

84. C. M. Briggs's Col.

THE SPIRITUAL WORLD.

1 There is a world we have not seen,
That time can ne'er destroy,
Where mortal footstep hath not been,
Nor ear hath heard its joy.

2 There is a world, — and O, how blest!
Fairer than prophets told;
And never did an angel guest
One half its peace unfold.

3 And this pure world is ever bright
With radiance all its own;
The streams of uncreated light
Flow round it from the throne.

4 Look not abroad with roving mind
To seek that fair abode;
It comes where'er the lowly find
The perfect peace of God.

---

85. C. M. C. Wesley.

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

1 The saints on earth and those above
But one communion make;
Joined to their Lord in bonds of love,
All of his grace partake.

2 One family, we dwell in him;
One church above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.

3 One army of the living God,
To his command we bow;
Part of the host have crossed the flood,
And part are crossing now.

4 O God, be thou our constant guide!
Then, when the word is given,
Bid thou death's flood its waves divide,
And land us safe in heaven.

86. 7 & 5s. M. ANONYMOUS.

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD.

1 ONWARD speed thy conquering flight,
Angel, onward speed!
Cast abroad thy radiant light,
Bid the shades recede;
Tread the idols in the dust,
Heathen fanes destroy,
Spread the gospel's love and trust,
Spread the gospel's joy.

2 Onward speed thy conquering flight,
Angel, onward fly!
Long has been the reign of night,
Bring the morning nigh.
Unto thee earth's sufferers lift
Their imploring wail;
Bear them heaven's holy gift
Ere their courage fail.

3 Onward speed thy conquering flight,
Angel, onward speed!
Morning bursts upon our sight,
Lo, the time decreed!
Now the Lord his kingdom takes,
Thrones and empires fall,
And the joyous song awakes,
God is all in all.

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH, AND ON EARTH PEACE;
GOOD WILL TO MEN!

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